



PLO 'foreign minister' visits Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) top diplomat arrived here Tuesday to brief Iraqi officials on the PLO-Israeli autonomy accord in the occupied territories, the signature of which he did not attend Monday in Washington. "I came to Baghdad to meet with our (Iraqi) brothers and brief them on the latest developments in the Palestinian cause, as well as the situation within the Palestine Liberation Organisation," said Farouk Kaddoumi, the head of the PLO's Political Department who is considered the movement's foreign minister. Asked if he was carrying a message from the Palestinian leadership to Iraqi officials, Mr. Kaddoumi replied: "I'm a member of the Palestinian leadership and one of the founders of the movement's revolution and don't need to play messenger." Mr. Kaddoumi, who is also a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, had voted against last week's recognition of the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho. Mr. Kaddoumi will next go to Syria, then on to Egypt, Iraq, which is opposed to the agreement with Israel saying PLO chief Yasser Arafat had "sold out the Palestinian cause."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Two Palestinians killed in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinians were killed in attacks on Israeli forces in the occupied Gaza Strip Tuesday, a day after the signing of a peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Military sources said that in the first incident, troops shot dead a Palestinian after he stabbed a soldier in Palestine Square in Gaza City. The soldier was slightly wounded. Another Palestinian was killed by a bomb that he carried into an Israeli police station in Gaza. Israel Radio said. It was not immediately clear if he was on a suicide mission. No one else was hurt by the explosion. The incidents were the first in Gaza since the signing of the peace pact in Washington on Monday. Palestinians in the strip opposed to the deal have vowed to escalate the Palestinian uprising against Israel. Under the self-rule accord, Israeli troops are to pull out of Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho first. About 500 Palestinians marched in support of the agreement in the West Bank town of Hebron Tuesday. Two Palestinians were slightly injured by stones thrown by Jewish settlers, witnesses said.

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Jordan and Israel sign agenda

King finalises document after waiting for 11 months for Palestinians to make progress

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Jordan and Israel carried forward the momentum towards Middle East peace Tuesday by signing an agreement that sets the framework for resolving long-

standing differences between them.

The ceremony was held in the State Department's Jefferson Room just 22 hours after Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a breakthrough accord on Palesti-

nian self-rule at the White House.

Fayez Tarawneh, Jordan's ambassador to the U.S. who signed the agenda for Jordan, said he hoped it would establish an agenda for discussions on a

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King exchanges views with Assad and Mubarak

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday exchanged views with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The news agency said the King contacted President Assad over the phone and exchanged views "on current Arab affairs, including the peace process, the latest developments and means of consultations and cooperation."

It said the two leaders reviewed means "to surmount the challenges and difficulties in these critical moments which necessitate rising to the level of responsibility in the service of the (Arab) Nation and future generations."

Earlier, Petra said the King received a phone call from President Mubarak and the two leaders "exchanged views on regional and Arab issues and the latest developments in the peace process."

It did not provide further details.

Majali announces separation of joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday announced the separation of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which attended the 12 rounds of negotiations with Israel in the 23-month-old Middle East peace process.

"As of yesterday (Monday) the umbrella (of a joint delegation) has been removed, and now there are two independent delegations — a Jordanian one and a Palestinian one," Dr. Majali told a press conference, one day after Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a landmark agreement on interim Palestinian autonomy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The prime minister noted that Jordan had extended the umbrella of a joint delegation to facilitate Palestinian participation in the peace process in the face of Israel's rejection of negotiations with an indepen-

dent Palestinian delegation.

Now that the Israelis have "recognised the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," the PLO, the joint delegation is no longer required, he said.

In a last-minute change to the "declaration of principles" — the autonomy agreement — on Monday, the PLO sought and secured an amendment to a key phrase in the document to read "the PLO delegation" instead of "the Palestinian delegation."

The original phrase had said: "The government of the State of Israel and the Palestinian team (to the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace conference) ('the Palestinian delegation')..."

It was not immediately known whether the first part of the phrase referring to the joint delegation was also changed.

Mr. Majali said Tuesday the agenda that Jordan and Israel announced in Washington con-



Abdul Salam Al Majali

Addressing a press conference a few hours before the Jordan-Israel agenda was signed in Washington, Dr. Majali said that amendments made to the document since it was drafted in an almost final form in October last year were minor. (See draft of agenda and explanations of amendments in separate story).

Dr. Majali, who had headed Jordan's negotiating team before becoming prime minister in May, said the Kingdom would continue to adhere to the principle of a comprehensive peace settlement by addressing all dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Noting that Jordan had held back the finalisation of the agenda until the Palestinians had made progress in their track of negotiations with Israel, Dr. Majali said the Kingdom would follow the same course of action if the talks between Syria and Israel

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Text of Jordan-Israel agenda

Following is the text of the agenda for peace talks between Jordan and Israel.

A. Goal:

The achievement of just, lasting and comprehensive peace between the Arab States, the Palestinians and Israel as per the Madrid invitation.

B. Components of Jordan-Israel Peace Negotiations:

1. Searching for steps to arrive at a state of peace based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 in all their aspects.
2. Security:

- a. Refraining from actions or activities by either side that may adversely affect the security of the other or may prejudice the final outcome of negotiations.
- b. Threats to security resulting from all kinds of terrorism.
- c. 1. Mutual commitment to threaten each other by any use of force and not to use weapons by one side against the other including conventional and non-conventional mass destruction weapons.
- ii. Mutual commitment, as soon as possible, to work towards a Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction, conventional and non-conventional weapons; this goal is to be achieved in the context of a comprehensive,

lasting and stable peace characterised by the renunciation of the use of force, reconciliation and openness.

Note: The above (item c-ii) may be revised in accordance with relevant agreements to be reached in the Multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security.

- d. Mutually agreed upon security arrangements and security confidence building measures.

3. Water:
- a. Securing the rightful water shares of the two sides.
- b. Searching for ways to alleviate water shortage.

4. Refugees and Displaced Persons:
- a. Achieving an agreed just solution to the bilateral aspects of the problem of refugees and displaced persons in accordance with international law.

5. Borders and Territorial Matters:

Settlement of territorial matters and agreed definitive delimitation and demarcation of the international boundary between Jordan and Israel with reference to the boundary definition under the Mandate, without prejudice to the status of any territories that came

under Israeli Military Government control in 1967. Both parties will respect and comply with the above international boundary.

6. Exploring the potentials of future bilateral cooperation, within a regional context where appropriate, in the following:

- a. Natural Resources: - Water, energy and environment.
- b. Rift Valley development.
- c. Infrastructure: - Transportation: land and air.
- d. Demography - Labour - Health - Education - Drug control
- e. Infrastructure: - Transportation: land and air.
- f. Communication
- g. Economic areas including tourism
- h. Phasing the discussion, agreement and implementation of the items above including appropriate mechanisms for negotiations in specific fields.

7. Discussion on matters related to both tracks to be decided upon in common by the two tracks.

C. It is anticipated that the above endeavour will ultimately, following the attainment of mutually satisfactory solutions to the elements of this agenda, culminate in a peace treaty.

Minor changes to October '92 document

IN his press conference yesterday, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali said that the text of the agenda that was signed by Jordan and Israel (in Washington Tuesday) was the same as the one reached last October, during the seventh round of bilateral talks, except for minor amendments.

In comparing the text published today with that published in the Jordan Times of Oct. 28-29, only two amendments could be observed.

The first amendment is found in article B-5 which reads in the original draft as follows:

"5. Borders and territorial matters: Settlement of territorial matters and agreed definitive delimitation and demarcation of the international boundary between Jordan and Israel with reference to the boundary definition under the Mandate, without prejudice to the status of the territories presently under Israeli military government control; both parties will respect and comply with the above international boundary."

In the signed agenda it reads:

"5. Borders and territorial matters: Settlement of territorial matters and agreed definitive delimitation and demarcation of the international boundary between Jordan and Israel with reference to the boundary definition under the Mandate, without prejudice to the status of the territories that came under Israeli military government control in 1967. Both parties will respect and comply with the above international boundary."

The second amendment occurs in article B-5. Following are the draft and the signed articles consequently:

"8. Discussion on matters related to both tracks to be decided upon in common."

"8. Discussion on matters related to both tracks to be decided upon in common by the two tracks."

Rabin meets King Hassan in Morocco amid report of diplomatic relations

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL AND MOROCCO will establish diplomatic relations "very shortly," Israel Radio said Tuesday.

According to the radio, an agreement has been concluded in Rabat between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and King Hassan II. Mr. Rabin arrived in the Moroccan capital early Tuesday.

Morocco would be the second Arab country after Egypt to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. Egypt and Israel forged links in 1979.

A senior Israeli official told AFP in occupied Jerusalem earlier Tuesday that it was "99 per cent certain" that the two countries would establish relations.

Mr. Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres arrived in Morocco for a landmark visit after the signing of a historic peace deal between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the U.S. capital.

Israeli Economic Affairs Minister Shimon Shetret, asked to occupy Jerusalem by Israeli Radio whether Israel and Morocco would announce normalisation of relations, said, "It is nearly certain that this will happen."

Israel army radio quoted Mr. Rabin as saying at a press conference in Rabat that he had heard "very promising things for the future."

"We appreciated the king's wish to receive us in this way. We heard many, very warm and very promising things for the future. I think that after what happened at Washington, there will be developments. Things cannot be immediate," he said.

"I don't believe that it will take too long before additional Arab countries will recognise Israel," Mr. Rabin told a news conference after two hours of talks with King Hassan.

Accompanied by Peres, Mr. Rabin was received by the king at the monarch's seaside palace in Skhirat 20 kilometres southwest of Rabat. Moroccan Prime Minis-

ter Mohammad Karim Lamrani and other government leaders were also present.

Diplomats said the meeting represented a step towards Israel establishing relations with Morocco and other Arab states after the Israel-PLO agreement.

"What King Hassan did today was a declaration of support and an important indication for the future," Mr. Peres said.

A long standing Arab friend of the United Nations, King Hassan was thanked by President Bill Clinton for meeting Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres.

"I applaud King Hassan and I hope that other Arab leaders will follow that example and that we will continue now rapidly to break down the common barriers between Israel and other nations," Mr. Clinton said at the White House Oval Office in Washington on Tuesday.

Jordan and Israel initiated an accord in Washington on Tuesday laying out the principles of a peace agreement between them.

"I hope this will give a push, a

more practical push to the continuation of the negotiations between us and the Jordanians," Mr. Rabin said.

"In my opinion, the bilateral problem between Jordan and us could be solved in a single week. The question is whether Jordan feels strong enough within the Arab World," he added.

After his talks with the King, Mr. Rabin visited a synagogue and the Mellah (Old Jewish quarter) in Casablanca, the country's biggest city where most of Morocco's remaining 8,000 Jews live.

He and Mr. Peres took off their shoes to tour the monumental Grand Hassan II mosque, which has the tallest minaret in the world at 200 metres and cost more than \$500 million, paid for by popular subscriptions, including from many Jews. It was opened by the king two weeks ago in Casablanca's seaport.

Mr. Rabin and Peres were due to leave for Israel during the night in time for the Jewish new

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Jordan hopes for comprehensive peace

Following is the statement made by Dr. Fayez Tarawneh, Jordan's ambassador to Washington and head of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral Middle East peace talks on Tuesday, Sept. 14, 1993 during the signing ceremony of the common agenda for the talks at the U.S. State Department:

Jordan and Israel have agreed on a formal agenda to serve as a basis for negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track of the bilateral Middle East peace talks. The agenda lists the items and issues to be discussed by the two sides, calling for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between the Arab states, the Palestinians and Israel based on Security Council resolutions (242) and (338) in all their aspects.

The agenda also addresses Jordan's water rights, the achievement of a just political solution to the problem of refugees according to interna-

tional law, and the settlement of the borders between the two countries with reference to the boundary definition under the mandate. The agenda also includes issues of future regional economic cooperation to be discussed.

We hope this first step will be translated through the substantive and lengthy negotiations that will follow into an agreement based on comprehensive peace that will positively transform the lives of all peoples of the area.

We in Jordan look for a global security arrangement that goes beyond the traditional definition of military security to one that provides for economic security and well-being through upgrading the quality of life for the peoples in the area.

The historic moments that we witnessed yesterday between the Palestinians and the Israelis gave us faith that progress in the ongoing peace process is achievable. It is our hope that similar progress will be realised on all tracks in the near future.

Allow me, Mr. Secretary, to express the gratitude and appreciation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to you and to all your colleagues who have worked diligently to make this possible. I also would like to extend similar gratitude and appreciation to the Russian Government for its dedicated efforts and support.

Thank you very much.

Arafat woos Congress, media for support

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat lobbied for American support through Congress and the news media Tuesday and said differences with Israel over Jerusalem could be resolved through good will and negotiations. "We know there is a problem and we are not going to put our heads inside the sand," he said.

In an appearance at the National Press Club, Mr. Arafat conceded that he and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin have fundamentally different positions on the Biblical city.

Earlier, Mr. Arafat had breakfast with senators and appealed to them for loan guarantees. He received a promise that U.S. laws barring aid to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would be reviewed.

"I know the Senate will not give us money because of difficulties... but at least we are in need of loan guarantees," he told the press club.

Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell promised swift action to change U.S. laws aimed at the PLO.

Asked about a laws aimed at



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (centre), meets Senate majority leader George Mitchell during a visit to the U.S. Capitol (AFP photo)

to a West Bank and Gaza controlled by the PLO, Mr. Mitchell said he had already directed a review of such legislation in the aftermath of the historic accord between the PLO and Israel signed

on Monday. Once a pariah in the eyes of official Washington, Mr. Arafat breakfasted with 27 senators at the capitol, taking the place of honour between Mr. Mitchell, a

Democrat and minority leader Bob Dole, a Republican. He laughed and bantered with journalists at a National Press

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Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday receives in his office the former Sudanese President, Field Marshal Abdel Rahman Swaroudhab, who is currently on a private visit to Jordan (Petra photo).

Police search for hit and run suspect

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police Tuesday continued their search for a taxi driver whose vehicle Monday noon, witnesses said, struck and killed an eight-year-old boy and dragged his body for five metres before stopping.

Witnesses told police that the driver got out of his taxi, picked up the boy and drove off with him. "We were on our way home from school when Khalid (the victim) was hit by the taxi. We ran toward the car and asked the driver if we could go with him to take our friend to the hospital. But he pushed us away and took off with Khalid," said Musa A. (10), a schoolmate. Police arrived at the scene of the accident in the Haj Hassan suburb of Jabal Zuhayr.

The victim, identified as Khalid S., was found dead approximately

four hours later by a shepherd in Jabal Quweimeh. His body was taken to Al Bashir Hospital.

Police are interrogating all taxi drivers registered in Amman with a 1983 to 1985 model Nissan Sunny. Police sources said they have "fairly good description" of the suspect.

Witness told the Jordan Times that the taxi driver was a male, about 30 years old, with long black hair and a moustache. Another fatal road accident Monday evening claimed the life of a four-year-old boy, identified as A. K., in the Muthalath Um Al Qutair suburb of Naour.

Police apprehended a male suspect in the area who, they said, confessed to the hit and run incident. According to a police report the suspect was driving through the Naour suburb when he "failed to yield to a pedestrian." The report said the suspect's car struck and killed the child.

PLO, Jordan agree to prevent Palestinian transfer — Majali

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are in agreement not to allow an influx of Palestinians from the West to the East Bank of Jordan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali said Tuesday.

The Kingdom has not taken any measures to restrict travel by Palestinians who hold temporary travel documents or temporary passports across the bridges, Dr. Majali said.

The present measures are organisational and can in no way be considered travel obstacles, the prime minister said at a press conference.

Dr. Majali was replying to a journalist's question about alleged reports that the Follow Up and Inspection Department of the Ministry of Interior was tightening measures against Palestinians holding temporary

travel documents. "You well know that Israel lately has reduced to 25 from 35 the age of men who can leave the West Bank and also reduced the permit fees for their departure," the prime minister said.

"As a result of the pressure which the Palestinian people face under occupation it is inevitable that a great number of them would come to visit Jordan, but if the visitors' number exceeds the reasonable limit, the government has to take some action, otherwise we would be assisting the process of forced migration from the West Bank to the East Bank," Dr. Majali added.

"I hope to be clear about this point as the procedures are organisational and we are in agreement with the PLO about it," the prime minister said.

Information Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar earlier Tuesday denied reports alleging that the

Jordanian government had changed its policy regarding travel across the bridges on the Jordan River.

Speaking in an interview with the London-based Arabic language Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper, the minister said: "Jordan will continue to support the steadfastness of our kinsmen and our brothers in the West Bank and will not allow the evacuation of the Arab lands of their inhabitants."

"This firm Jordanian stand draws full support from the Palestine Liberation Organisation and its leader Mr. Yasser Arafat," said the minister.

Foreign newspapers, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, had published reports that new measures are being taken by Jordan concerning travel across the bridges to and from the West Bank.

Lawyers, judges to be honoured

AMMAN (Petra) — Retired and active lawyers and court judges will be honoured and 150 new lawyers will be graduated in the course of a three-day celebration to start Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

The Jordanian Bar Association (JBA), which is organising the celebration, said it would mark its 40th anniversary.

JBA President Kamal Nasser said that former association presidents, heads of the Court of Cassation and the Higher Court of Justice, together with many retired and active attorneys who

contributed to the development of the association will be honoured.

In addition, 150 new lawyers who have just completed their two-year training courses will be graduated, and awards will be presented to several of the excellent graduates, said Dr. Nasser.

The event will entail the organisation of a Jordanian Law Conference, and professors of law at Jordanian and other Arab universities are expected to attend, he added.

The three-day conference is expected to review working papers on arbitration, control of

companies' activities, the role of the holding companies and company mergers, said Dr. Nasser.

Delegates from Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Tunisia, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait, in addition to Jordan, will be attending the event. Ihsan Kaiyali, secretary general of the Arab Lawyers Union will also take part, said Dr. Nasser.

He said special attention will be given to the discussion on arbitration, now that the first Arab Arbitration Bureau has been established, with its headquarters in Amman.

U.S. to ease burden on Jordan from Iraq sanctions

By Rana Sabbagh
Renter

AMMAN — A U.S. team has promised to try to ease the pressure on Jordan of sweeping trade sanctions imposed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Finance Minister Sami Gammo said.

Mr. Gammo said the 12-man team, led by State Department inspector David Newton, would try to ease naval inspection at the Jordanian port of Aqaba to make it less difficult for Jordanian traders to send goods to Iraq.

"They have promised to reconsider all these procedures and to

come back with ideas on how to improve things and ease the tension and the pressure on the Jordanian economy," the minister said late on Monday after seeing off the team, which left Amman for the United States.

"They got a very good idea of the difficulties facing us and we hope they come back very soon to ease the pressure of the sanctions," Mr. Gammo told Reuters.

The United States has a major say in a U.S. committee in charge of approving exports to Iraq under the trade ban.

Only food, medicine and humanitarian goods are allowed into Iraq, once Jordan's key trading partner. The drop in trade has cost Amman \$300 million a year.

Mr. Gammo said the team, which spent five days in Jordan, pledged to reconsider the time-consuming and complicated inspection rules of all Jordan-bound cargo vessels.

Shippers say tough U.S.-led allied navy inspections held up ships for days, raised transport fees and insurance costs and diverted millions of dollars in business to Turkey, Syria and Iran. Mr. Gammo said Washington

would also try to lift restrictions on the exports of some non-strategic Jordanian-made goods like cloth, threads and detergents to Iraq, to help local industries established in the 1980s to cater solely for Baghdad. Many of them have been unable to penetrate other markets.

He said they promised to work with the U.N. committee to cut time and simplify procedures for granting export permits.

Officials say local traders have to wait for six to eight weeks for committee approval to send goods to Iraq while businessmen

in other countries, mainly Gulf war allies, received authorisations in a week.

Jordan sympathised with Iraq during the 1991 Gulf war and for a short time delayed implementing the U.N. trade sanctions against Iraq. Washington in general has been satisfied with Jordan's compliance — once a sour point in Jordanian-U.S. ties.

Official figures show Jordan's annual trade with Iraq fell from \$177 million in 1989 to \$70 million in 1992. Traders blamed the drop on the embargo and a weakening Iraqi dinar.

NMC to open season on classic note

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Music Conservatory (NMC) Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) is kicking off the fall music season this week with two concerts that will take place in an original score.

The NMC's own orchestra, conducted by visiting American artist Ronald Horton will perform on Wednesday Sept. 15 and Saturday Sept. 25 at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

Held under the joint auspices of the American Centre in Amman and NHF, both concerts will also host actor Nabil Sawalha as the narrator of the Carnival of the Animals by French composer Camille Saint-Saens.

Mr. Horton is currently visiting Jordan and is holding music workshops and conducting classes at the NMC. In addition he is also conducting classes for and rehearsing with the Jordanian Armed Forces

Orchestra.

The first concert will feature the NMC's orchestra; the second will see both the NMC and the Armed Forces orchestras perform together under Mr. Horton's baton.

The conservatory's ensemble comprises 40 professional musicians and is gaining more experience and popularity every year, since it was established in Amman.

Ronald Horton is a multi-directional musician and has an impressive record of teaching, conducting and performing as a first violin with symphony orchestras in the United States.

He also has achieved several major recordings with the Columbia Broadcasting System and the Columbia Symphony Orchestra.

The programme of the two concerts includes works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Samuel Barber, G. Holst, Saint-Saens, Copland, Fauri, Leroy Anderson and F. Mendelssohn.

Tribal-based elections foreseen

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The election earlier this week of Abdul Hadi Al Majali, secretary-general of the Al Ahd Party, as the Majali tribe's candidate for one of the eight seats in the Karak governorate marked the launching of what many political analysts in Jordan believe to be very tribal legislative elections this November.

"The tribal nomination — or election of Abdul Hadi Al Majali — was like the shot that started the election race and a signal that the contest for Parliament seats among clans and tribes has begun," said one local analyst Monday, two days after the Majalis announced their choice.

Local analysts and politicians believe that most of the 20 political parties will attempt to field clan and tribal candidates to assure themselves of victory at the polls.

The one-person, nine-vote formula, introduced as part of a temporary election law in August, is believed by political analysts to encourage tribal and clan voting.

In the 1989 elections voters could vote for both clan and "agenda" candidates since they could vote for several people. But the Nov. 8 elections will allow only one ballot to be cast by each voter.

"People in Jordan vote on agendas and issues but the first loyalty is always to their family, clan or tribe," explained veteran civil servant and close political associate of Abdul Hadi Al Majali, Marwan Dudin.

According to political party organisers and political observers alike, the "tribal card" will be used by many of the newly-established political parties.

"If a tribe has 10,000 registered voters in one voting district it is reasonable to think that they would vote for a member of their clan if they were allowed to cast only one vote," explained an analyst.

The Unionist Arab Democratic Party, centrist and liberal, has already had to juggle around its leadership to suit some of the tribal needs of its leading members, according to one of the party's founding fathers.

While the prominent Christian industrialist from Balqa'a

district Anis Muasher, headed the party in August and September, Mohammad Oran from Tafleh will be heading the party when elections take place on Nov. 8.

Officially the party leadership rotates amongst the two, as well as a third leader — Talal Omari, the unofficial version betrays the strong tribal make-up of Jordanian politics.

"Mohammad Oran would have a stronger chance of winning a seat in his hometown of Tafleh if he was the party's general secretary," explained one of the founders of the party.

"Actually his clan have said 'Unless you head the party you won't get the clan vote'. Rather than lose him and split the party we agreed to this formula. Thus while campaigning in Tafleh he can say 'I head a party', he explained.

The Jordan National Alliance, headed by central Jordanian clan chief Mihem Khreishah, is expected to field solely clan candidates in the central regions of Jordan and receive votes from Circassian and other minority groups.

The Al Ahd, the Yakaza, and the Al Watan Party are expected to rely predominantly on tribal candidates in voting districts where their own clans are numerous. With the exception of Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, head of the Yakaza, who is expected to be reelected to his tribal seat because of his wide-ranging administrative and civil service contributions to the community, most right-of-centre parties are expected to rely on clan affiliations, backing and conglomerations.

Two relatively unexpected groups are also expected to take advantage of the tribal issue in the elections. The most prominent one is the Islamic Action Front, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Most of the Brotherhood parliamentarians who were elected in 1989 in more urban, "platform-oriented" districts, but at least five of them had tribal backing as well.

In Tafleh, Balqa'a, Irbid and Madaba the Brotherhood fielded members who also came from large local clans. "The Brotherhood fielded members of large clans and thus hit two birds with one stone — they got the Islamist vote and the tribal vote in

one," Mr. Majali explained during a recent interview with the Jordan Times, saying his party may use some of the same tactics.

In the Madaba district in particular, the Brotherhood, which will run under the political umbrella of the Islamic Action Front this fall, fielded two candidates — one from each of the two major clans in Madaba. The two Madaba deputies, Ahmad Kteish Al Azaideh and Abdul Hafeeth Al Alawi, represented Madaba's two major clans respectively. When Azaideh died in 1992 he was replaced by his fellow clansman and Brotherhood member Mohammad Azaideh after a by-election.

Even some leftist parties, particularly The Jordanian Communist Party and the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, are expected to play the tribal card in the one-person, one-vote election system.

Both parties have relatively strong backing in tribalised rural communities. Particularly in Karak and Madaba, the left-leaning political parties are expected to have a winning chance through tribal backing rather than by virtue of their Socialist election platforms.

In northern Jordanian districts and Karak governorate, Pan-Arab nationalists are expected to field large clan candidates.

The role of tribal candidates was seen as relatively reduced in the 1989 elections when very few clan or tribal leaders made it into Parliament, with the exception of the six seats in Parliament allocated to bedouins.

Only one clan, the Obeidats of Beni Kaneina, held primary elections in 1989 before fielding Qasseem Obeidat, who was elected to represent both his district and his clan in the Lower House of Parliament.

Although the Obeidat clan have said it will not repeat their primary polls for this election, the Majali clan was seen as the precedent, which other clans are expected to follow.

Political observers are anxiously awaiting to see election lists of the political parties to ascertain, among other things, how the parties will use tribal affiliation candidates.

The Islamic Action Front is expected to announce its election list in the next 10 days.



Jordan Valley Authority Secretary General Abdul Aziz Wishah (third from left) Tuesday signs an agreement with the General Contractors Company for the construction of 30 kilometres of road in the Jordan Valley (Petra photo).

Jordan Valley to get new road

AMMAN (Petra) — Work on a 120-kilometre road linking the southern and northern parts of the Jordan Valley will begin soon in implementation of an agreement signed in Amman Tuesday.

Concluded between the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and the General Contractors Company (GCC), the agreement calls for the construction of the first section of the road, a stretch of 30 kilometres between Wadi Rajib and Al Mashareh district, according to JVA Secretary General Abdul Aziz Wishah.

Dr. Wishah said the deal is worth JD 3.4 million, but the whole project will cost about JD 10 million.

The first part of the project, which the GCC will execute, is scheduled to be completed by the middle of 1995, said Dr. Wishah.

He said the 120-kilometre road, stretching from Adasieh in the north to the King Abdullah Bridge near the Dead Sea in the

south, was deemed necessary to reduce the pressure on the existing road between the two points of the valley.

The new road, which would pass along the Jordan River, would also be useful in facilitating the transport of agricultural crops, added Dr. Wishah.

He said the JVA will allocate funds and award tenders for the second and third stages of the road project during 1994.

French envoy ends tour of duty

By Lima Nabli
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bouchard Tuesday said France was pleased by the signing in Washington Monday of a Palestinian-Israeli agreement on Palestinian autonomy.

But, Mr. Bouchard said, some impending problems, including the status of Jerusalem, need to be addressed and overcome, adding that there would be no peace without a solution to the issue of Jerusalem.

Mr. Bouchard was speaking at a press conference on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in Jordan.

He said the European Community (EC) including France, will contribute to supporting development projects through financial and technical aid to the

Gaza Strip and to some countries in the region, including Jordan.

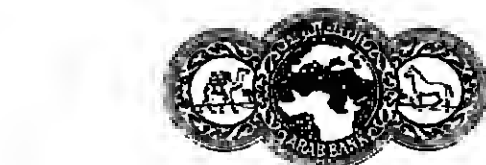
The ambassador stressed that his country has always played an active role in the peace process, adding that no achievement would have been made had it not been for the mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

On bilateral relations, Mr. Bouchard said Jordanian-French relations have always been characterised by mutual respect. He praised Jordan's democratic march, describing it as a pioneer step in the region. Mr. Bouchard said France's assistance to Jordan helped it in dealing with Jordan's foreign debt problem, in rescheduling its payments to the Paris Club.

He said France has donated \$20 million in annual aid to Jordan since the Gulf crisis.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Nouri Al Rawi at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition by artists Mohammad Al Ameri and Ghassan Abu Lahab at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Munther Al Ma'ani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Egyptian artist H. Bika at the Balqa' Art Gallery in Fubeis.
- ★ Paintings exhibition by Amor Aouens and Salam Kanaas at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshebia Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ Film entitled: "Billy Liar" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Lecture in Arabic entitled: "The Literature of the Authority, and the Literature of Freedom in the Current Literary Situation" by Mr. Isam Al Jundi at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Lecture in Arabic entitled: "The Islamic Republics of the Former Soviet Union" by Dr. Fakhrudin Daghestani at the premises of the Jordanian-Turkish Friendship Association in Jabal Amman at 6 p.m.



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Commitments and principles

THE SIGNING of the Joint Jordanian-Israeli agenda for peace negotiations, one day after the historic signing of the PLO-Israeli agreement on self-government for the Palestinian people, basically means two things. The first is about the importance Jordan attaches to finding a solution to the Palestine problem, before the rest of the Arab World moved to make peace with the Israelis. The second is about this country's commitment to the achievement of a comprehensive peace, that is also just and lasting, to the whole conflict with Israel. As Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali did in fact point out yesterday, Jordan also needs the Syrians and the Lebanese to make real progress in their bilateral talks with the Jewish state, and hopefully join the multilateral negotiations, in order to proceed exactly on target towards the goal of peace.

Finalising agendas and declaring principles are necessary, but they are only initial steps that could and should be taken on the long and tortuous road ahead. Take a look at the items on the agenda that was reached between Jordan and Israel to see what we actually mean by this.

The issues of refugees, water, security, possible transfer of Palestinians into Jordan and boundaries are of vital interest to Jordan. The question of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons is one of the utmost importance to the Kingdom's security and stability. Unless a solution to these people's problem is found, through either repatriation or compensation, in accordance with numerous U.N. resolutions, they will certainly not feel content with whatever agreement the PLO or any other Arab party reaches with Israel. Those refugees have been living in camps or in miserable exile for the last four decades and it is time to address their problem seriously and comprehensively.

Jordan's water rights in both the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers must also be adequately addressed. With increasing populations in all the countries of the region water has become a scarce commodity. Jordan of course would be more than willing to enter into any regional scheme for the provision or desalination of water.

Borders and security too are of extreme importance to a country like ours in a region where big neighbours have in the past shown very little respect for the boundaries and sovereignty of others, especially small states.

The Jordanian territories that Israel still occupies might be small in size, but the demarcation and delineation of the boundaries with our powerful neighbour to the west is of extreme significance to Jordan's sovereignty and to international legality with which we consistently abide.

Of course Jordan, as it always maintains, is not interested in either a separate deal or an agreement with Israel before the central issue, that of Palestine, is solved. It is therefore imperative for all the tracks to progress simultaneously and to bear fruit at about the same time.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE LONG chapter of enmity between the Israelis and the Palestinians has been folded, or so we hope, with the sealing of the PLO-Israeli deal in Washington Monday, said Sawt Al Shabab Arabic daily Tuesday. It is hoped that the deal will mark the beginning of a new era and a new future of peaceful coexistence between the Israeli and the Palestinian people, the paper added. With the shaking of hands between Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin the peace process between the Palestinians and the Israelis has actually started, but the process is long and difficult, added the daily. For Jordan, everything remains the same because this country has always supported the right of the Palestinians to make their own decisions and choose their own future by their own free choice, the paper continued. It said that although the Israelis and the Jordanians are due to reach a common agenda soon, Jordan does not change its position with regard to peace which it says should be based on U.N. resolutions and exchanging land for peace. Jordan, said the paper, has always looked forward towards the achievement of a just and honourable peace, acceptable to the coming generations.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour praised the Amman Municipality for its efforts to serve the ever growing population of the capital and the efforts of its new Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi. Mohammad Daoud said the mayor's drive to find a space for the street vendors, enabling them to pursue their drive to earn a decent living while at the same time clearing the streets to help facilitate the flow of traffic, is something that deserves genuine praise from all sectors. Furthermore, the citizens of Amman are in need of streets solely restricted to pedestrians and there is need for the development of the central regions of the capital, added the writer. Not only can the downtown merchants benefit from such moves, but the capital would also attract more visitors as they would find it comfortable to move around and shop, he said.

From crusades to Zionism — in search of new strategies

By Dr. Ziad Al Asali

THE ARABS' perception of Israel and Zionism has been based on what I would call "the crusader model". This model depicts Israel as the latest western crusade against the Arab and Muslim World. It also defines the historical approach of our forefathers in the face of the crusades as the right approach for us against Israel. This means that in due time, a united Arab state, led by a modern-day Saladin, will deal Israel a crushing military defeat and seal its fate. This model, I contend, is unattainable within the existing imbalance of power between the Arabs and the West. Furthermore, I would argue that confronting the West as the enemy is a counterproductive approach that plays into the hands of the Zionists. In order to achieve economic development and political empowerment, I submit that we need new thinking about our relation with the West, as well as new ways of attaining Arab unity.

In his book "Conflict and Contradiction," Meron Benvenisti noted that "the study of the crusades became fashionable because Arab scholars began to draw parallels between Zionism and the crusades." He proceeds to state that "all such parallels are political battle cries, but this particular one is absurd" and goes on to state that "unlike the 'crusader' Balian we have nowhere to go and no storm will uproot us."

The study of the crusades has become fashionable in our time not because of the effort of Arab scholars, as Benvenisti says, but because of the gigantic and relentless efforts of the Zionist scholars who have perceived the crusader experiment as a precedent of the Zionist one. They studied the crusader state in order to "understand its essence," in the words of Joshua Prawer, the Polish immigrant to Palestine who has transformed the Hebrew University of Jerusalem into the world's foremost centre for the study of the crusades. They studied it as a European colonial settler state established by force of arms, under the banner of the cross, that dominated the eastern Mediterranean and subjugated its people. This crusader state entered into incessant wars with its neighbours till it met with its first major defeat at the hands of Saladin, 90 years after it was established and once again at the hands of the Mamluks of Egypt, a century later when the remnants of its citizens sailed into the sunset from Acre in 1291.

The purpose of the exhaustive Zionist study of the crusader state is precisely to draw the lessons needed to avoid the mistakes that led to its fate. We can draw on these Zionist studies, and conclude that there were three general causes that led to the failure of the crusader state, and we will note how the Zionists benefited from these studies.

1. Internal causes:

a) The intellectual stagnation and academic impoverishment of the crusaders and their lack of understanding of their own problems and surroundings. Israel, by contrast, established a solid fund of educational, scientific and technological achievements, which it utilised to create a military industrial complex which is the backbone of the state.

b) The failure of the crusaders to develop an agrarian community and their dependence on the peasants for their food supply. The Zionists have established kibbutzes and moshaves and excluded Arab farm labour, at the outset, from participating in their farm and food industry.

c) The political divisions amongst the crusaders that led to fragmentation and even military confrontations at later stages. Even at the height of the divisions between Labour and the revision-

ists (who later became the Likud), the Zionists never fell into the trap of violent confrontation.

d) The demographic factor which handicapped the crusader state with shortage of manpower at all levels. By contrast, no effort was spared to encourage Jews from migrating to Israel from all corners of the world, using violence, lofty moral arguments, blackmail and downright bribery.

Sustaining the Zionist ideology in the West, exactly like the crusader spirit of the past, has been the paramount goal of the Zionist establishment. Modern-day Zionism started as a non-Jewish movement of the Protestant fundamentalists and combined elements of anti-Islamic crusading with anti-Semitism to found a homeland for the Jews in Palestine. Eventually, it crystallised as a Jewish movement which was able to generate enough support in the West to establish the coveted state. To achieve that goal, two tracts had to be followed:

"As the world is being redefined in the past cold war era, we should not shrink from questioning our assumptions. We should encourage debate and tolerate each other's ideas, no matter how troubling or unworthy they might seem. We should strive never to be deprived, as the majority of the people of the Middle East has been, of the fruits of free men and women."

1) Dehumanising and devaluing the Palestinian-Arab-Muslim people and their culture in order to justify their dispossession. They had to be presented as the "other", menacing and barbarian.

2) Exploiting the state of Israel as a moral (almost divine) achievement, heroic and "civilised" — "one of us" — with shared values and common heritage bonding it with the West. This state is always projected as the defender of western interests in the area.

The Arab reaction

While the Zionists perceived their mission clearly as identifying with the West in confronting the Arabs and Muslims, our task in meeting the Zionist challenge has been more problematic. The crusader model, which was adopted almost instinctively by the people and the intellectual elite, meant that political unity would bring about a military solution and reclaim the land. It implied first that unity in fact was achievable and second that the present day Middle East is capable of confronting the West and its proteges.

This was a neat model — it appealed to the Arab-Muslim people's sense of justice and violation, and it provided a living connection with the glorious past. Unfortunately, this model was too neat. It simply failed to take into account the existing realities and balance of power.

In the eight-century interlude between the arrival of the crusaders and the arrival of the Zionists profound historical changes have taken place. The rough equivalence between the Arab-Muslims and the West has dramatically shifted and been replaced by dominance and subjugation. During this interval, Europe was able to curb the absolute powers of the

king by the Magna Carta and the Church by Reformation. It was able to free the minds of its people to develop science and technology that generated wealth and power. The Middle East, on the other hand, became a shell and a shadow of its former self. Having never solved the problems of absolutist governments, education and science, it stagnated and fell prey to the aggressive modern western powers. Thus, while the Zionists were gaining a foothold in the land, the West was literally defining the borders of a nation fragmented, as it helplessly watched its fate decided by others.

Arab nationalism, which has clearly defined its objective as achieving a unified Arab state, has consistently been thwarted in achieving this objective by a multitude of opposing forces. It was frustrated at the end of World War I by the western powers which created the nation states and the Palestine problem. The resilience of the nation state system and its ability to undermine Arab nationalism were demonstrated by the failure to sustain the union between Egypt and Syria, and the inability of the two Baathist wings in Syria and Iraq to unite. The concept of Arab unity was further damaged after the 1967 war, a war that gave impetus to Palestinian nationalism seeking statehood, with the implied despair of deliverance at the hands of the Arab nation. The various setbacks involving the Palestinians and the nation states have dealt final blows to the concept of a single unified Arab state.

The series of failures to achieve a unified political entity has been interpreted as failure of Arab nationalism.

Islam has provided the language of political discourse in the Arab World since its emergence in the 7th century. It has provided the indispensable legitimising cover for each and every political movement up till the rise of Arab nationalism. Even Arab nationalism at its inception felt the need to associate itself with the Islamic Sharif of Mecca to derive Islamic legitimacy. Islamic symbols and terminology have continued to permeate political discourse, with the exception of the Marxist-Communist literature. In fact, the ultimate militant symbol, Allah-Akbar, eventually appeared on the flag of one of the most secular of Arab states. This should not necessarily convey religiosity but is perhaps more of an appeal to the resonance these symbols have in the hearts of the people. But Islam cannot, and should never be, defined by one group that claims its legitimacy. Throughout its history, Islam has provided the flowing robes worn by all kinds of political and cultural trends. The Islam of justice and tolerance should never be conceded to the practitioners of repression and intolerance.

There is no reason to believe that the forces that have undermined Arab nationalism will be less able to undermine Islamic revival. On the contrary, they will have the added forces of religious minorities, making the outlook for Islamic unity no more promising than that of Arab unity. To the people of various Arab states, who continue the descent into degradation and deprivation — jobless, hopeless and undignified, emulating the precedents of the glorious past, such as the rise of Islam and the jihad against the crusaders, seems to be appealing and logical compared to the existing alternatives.

The alternatives present in the nation-state system fall into three subgroups:

- 1) The "revolutionary" republics
- 2) The royal oil rich states,
- 3) The Arab poor states,

1) The revolutionary republics carried out the mandate of

Arab nationalism of confronting the West, Israel, and "Arab reactionaries". They aligned themselves with the anti-imperialist Soviet Union and adopted socialism.

Rising initially on a tide of popularity and optimism they all eventually failed to carry out their mandate. They ended up as corrupt military dictatorships with impoverished and disillusioned citizens who have paid the price for the failures of their dictators.

The choice of "Arab socialism" in particular led to depriving the Arab people of their singular, historical assets as traders and merchants. To complicate matters further, they turned over existing industries and costly new factories to the hands of government bureaucrats and army brass with the outcome known to all. They also encouraged xenophobia and deprived the tourist industry from realising its unrivaled potential.

All the sacrifices that the citizenry had to endure were made in the name of confronting Israel and "those behind Israel" as Gamal Abdul Nasser said, only to pile up a record of six major war losses and countless acts of violence and destruction.

Today these states provide the most fertile grounds for the emergence of Islamic fundamentalism.

2) The royal rich states found themselves sitting on an ocean of oil, covered by all, and with the least educated population group. They made the obvious choice of alignment with the West in search of protection and refused to participate in the anti-imperialist rhetoric. They proceeded with a slow development programme, funded by government but encouraging free enterprise. They provided labour and business opportunities for many Arabs and other nationals with varying degrees of success.

They based their legitimacy primarily on Islamic tradition with the exaggerated ritualistic strictures of "official Islam." Another source of legitimacy for them was the anti-Zionist stand and the expressed support of the seminal Palestinian cause. Recent developments since the Gulf war have added stresses on, and opportunities to, this stand that remains to be realised.

Although the rich monarchies have managed reasonably well for themselves, they have had to continually defend themselves against the accusation that they have fallen short in their support of their fellow Arabs and Muslims. Their record on human and civil rights has to improve substantially before their model becomes attractive.

3) The Arab poor states,

specifically Jordan and Morocco, have also chosen the western umbrella for protection and pursued a limited free enterprise system with a large role for the bureaucracy and public sector in the economy. The anti-Zionist stand of Jordan cost it the West Bank. It was left with a large population of Palestinians who got involved in the private sector. They emerged, after initial setbacks, as a major source of support for the regime.

In pursuit of modernisation and state building, this group also used Islamic legitimacy but without severe official strictures. They specifically Jordan, have been making progress by the gradual development of constitutional monarchy, respect for human rights, control of bureaucratic inefficiency and the indispensable ingredient of an expanding free enterprise system.

These measures, along with free and open borders across the region, provide the ingredients for meaningful development and empowerment.

In search of new strategies

Coming from a generation firmly committed to anti-imperialism, anti-Zionism, socialism and opposition to the reactionary Arab regimes, it is not easy, but it is honest, for me to admit that our beliefs have played a major role in our defeats. Ambitious goals, rooted in simple concepts of perceived justice, were thwarted by the very real world of power politics. Having failed to come to grips with the unpleasant realities of power, we fulfilled the fondest expectations of our enemies. It is fair to say that we can ill afford to pursue our delusions anymore.

We have confronted the West as the enemy, undaunted by the obvious disparity in power, accepting racial and religious causes for the conflict, thus endorsing it with permanence and inoperability. We have asked our leaders to confront the West and win. This they could not do. Those of them who confronted the West were broken and the

"Restraining government and releasing the energies of the people to compete and to build institutions, businesses and factories, within our traditional concepts of justice, will lead to laying down a solid foundation of power. This cannot be achieved without genuine institutional respect for human rights and the rights of minorities."

others who appeased the West were labeled as traitors. Either way we deprived them of the ability to manoeuvre or survive with dignity.

The idea of confronting the West has kept us from exploring, as others have done, the potential of benefit from dealing with the capitalist side — as opposed to the racist side — of the West. We should abandon the view of the West as a monolith and explore, to our advantage, the contradictions and currents within and amongst its various components. At this stage, no one can stay out of the world economic order, and it is our challenge to find a role bigger than that of exporters of raw materials and impoverished consumers of inferior products or profligate consumers of luxury items. We have to give the West an incentive for, and a stake in, our development and not in our stagnation. We would do well in this regard to study the history of the development of South East Asia and learn from its experience with joint ventures and transfer of technology. We would also do well to study the outcome of the policy of accommodation that Germany and Japan pursued after World War II defeat, and the factors that compelled the Soviet Union to pursue this same policy in the recent past.

We have also confronted Zionism as a western crusade, making no distinction between the Jewish state and the Christian West. The conflict and perceived animosity between the Arab Muslim East and the Christian West has been the lifeline of Israel, and we did all we could to keep this lifeline alive. In order to diffuse this animosity we have to engage the West in direct dialogue at multiple levels and without the self-serving intermediaries and interpreters.

As for the Israeli dimension, it seems reasonable for us to give support to our representatives who are striving to come to terms with Israel by offering prospects of real peace for all. Real peace will have to fulfill the political aspirations of the Palestinian people in their homeland, as it realises the normalisation of relations of Israel with the Arab World, with open borders and free trade. It should be clear to all that peace will bring its own dividends of development and prosperity.

In our quest for justice, we have embraced socialism and ended up with state capitalism, with its all-intrusive system of corrupt bureaucracy and stifling security apparatus. This wrought havoc on the economic, as well as moral, fabric of our societies. Restraining government and releasing the energies of the people to compete and to build institutions, businesses and factories, within our traditional concepts of justice, will lead to laying down a solid foundation of power. This cannot be achieved without genuine constitutional respect for human rights and the rights of minorities.

In our pursuit of political unity, we challenged the legitimacy of nation-states and we were met with the might of the governments of these states. Rivalries between the leaders of these states and the designs they had on each other resulted in erecting higher barriers between these states. This contributed to wrecking the economies of the region and led to a differentiation in levels of development that made unity even less attainable. It should be our unwavering commitment to work towards a meaningful functional unity by opening the borders between Arab states, allowing free movement of people and goods, guaranteeing security of investment as well as basic human rights for all. This objective cannot be realised if the government of one state feels threatened by the claims of citizens of another. Therefore, in order to achieve this final and meaningful unity, we have to start by accepting unanimously and explicitly the sovereignty of all Arab states in their present borders and then proceed to deliberately and irreversibly build regional integration.

A model of this kind of unity is being gradually achieved by the Europeans in our lifetime. After having fought amongst each other in two world wars in this century, they have been steadily overcoming the many obstacles in their way to unity. It behooves us to note that they are discussing these obstacles in twelve languages and not one. It is not acceptable to say that we are incapable of achieving this kind of unity just "because we are Arabs."

Meaningful reforms, with tangible improvements in the quality of life for the people, particularly in the economic and political spheres, will have to be achieved. Otherwise, the ever-rising tide of extremist Islamic movements will be more appealing, and likely to gain grounds.

The world is being redefined in the post cold war era, we should not shrink from questioning our assumptions. We should encourage debate and tolerate each other's ideas, no matter how troubling or unworthy they might seem. We should strive never to be deprived, as the majority of the people of the Middle East has been, of the fruits of the minds of free men and women.

The writer, a medical doctor in Taylorville, Illinois, is vice-president of the Arab American University Graduates (AAUG) and author of the book "History of the Expedition to Jerusalem," published by Dar Al Shuruk in 1990. A copy of this article was given to the Jordan Times by the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) office in Amman.

Mideast — a triumph of realism and self-interest, not idealism

By Abba Eban

NEW YORK — The rival doctrines in the Israeli-Palestinian debate are "territories for peace" and permanent Israeli rule over all the territories and peoples in the West Bank and Gaza. A conventional fallacy presents these as theories still awaiting experimental judgment. This is untrue.

Territories for peace has been tested for 14 years through the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. Israeli military rule over the West Bank and Gaza has been tested by the experience of 26 years. Territories for peace has emerged with manifest success in the only context in which it has been applied. With Sinai under Israeli rule, we lost 3,000 dead in the 1967-1970 war of attrition and the war of 1973. And, so long as we controlled the Suez Canal, war was eventually inevitable. With the treaty in force, we have lost not one person, and war is virtually inconceivable.

To prefer the previous situa-

tion to the current one would be to prefer war and death to peace and life.

Retention of military rule, on the other hand, has had zero success. The areas involved are still predominantly Arab in demography and national passions. The Palestinians and the Israelis share no common memory, sentiment, experience or aspiration. And the gulfs widens daily.

The relationship between the Israeli rulers and the population under their sway is much like what an ancient Greek historian expressed in another context: "The strong impose what they wish and the weak suffer what they must." The total absence of harmony, equality and coherence makes this one of the most volatile, hate-ridden and monstrously unbalanced "societies" in the world.

The 1.8 million Palestinians in the territories have neither the human rights of Israeli citizens nor the ability to establish a separate political identity. This situation violates our nation's democratic structure. It is a socie-

ty in which Palestinians have nothing to gain. That is why we have both agreed to disengage from it.

The decision of the Israeli cabinet to help the Palestinians begin their adventure of freedom is a triumph not for virtue and idealism, but for realism and mutual self-interest. Israelis and Palestinians reached their new convergence only because they are intensely dissatisfied with their existing condition.

Diverse currents of history helped to make the ground fruitful for change. The Gulf war increased Israel's security by crushing the military might of Iraq. Syria has never attacked Israel without Egypt simultaneously attacking from the rear and without the Soviet Union providing a safety net. President Hafez Assad of Syria knows that he has no Egyptian or Soviet support for another round of war and that his own armies are no match for an Israel kept at a high pitch of alertness and technological efficiency by the United States. We are celebrating a victory of deterrence, not of utopian

virtue. Governing a rebellious alien people is the only impossibility in this liberating age. Released from the terror of nuclear war, our generation faces new priorities. They are the structure of states, the interdependence of economies, the defence of the environment and the increasing obsolescence of military solutions.

The Israeli-Palestinian agreements are not far-reaching in their content. They fall short of what the Palestinians could have achieved by accepting the autonomy provisions of the Camp David accords, which both Likud and Labour backed in 1979.

Benjamin Netanyahu's raging about Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres therefore falls far below the traditions of truth and civility upheld by former opposition leaders. Mr. Rabin has prepared and led great armies in battle and has learned what Churchill once called "the fading glow of military success." Mr. Peres is the architect of Israel's arms industry. Both men can rightly expect

not to be lectured about security by those whose only innovation has been to tighten the severities of the military regime.

The 53 per cent of Israelis who have supported the new agreements in early polls are described in the media as "a narrow majority," but in Israel 53 per cent is something of a landslide.

The Palestinians understand that they are struggling not to get what they wanted but to save what they can.

The Israelis' essential nature is to deploy their democracy and cultural and social lineage in a world community that is wide open to them for the first time. Israel's flag flies in embassies in a hundred capitals. The peace process has ended our international isolation before achieving optimal security for us. There are better things for Israelis to do than chase stone-throwers in Gaza's squalid alleys.

The new agreement, together with the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, refutes the common fallacy that accommodation with Israel is

beyond the emotional capacity of Muslim and Arab societies. Arab-Israeli contacts have evolved in revolutionary fashion.

Whether and how the Palestinians advance to higher forms of independence, probably in association with Jordan, is largely for them to decide. The virtue of these modest arrangements is that they put co-existence to a test in reality, and not in the interchange of rhetoric.

Israel's first president, Chaim Weizmann, said of Jericho: "It was there that walls crumbled before the sound of trumpets. I have never heard of walls being built in that way."

It may seem utopian to project positive images at a time when the memory of bloodshed is so grievous. But in the long run nations can flourish only when they recognise what their common interest demands.

The writer is a former foreign minister and ambassador of Israel. This article is reprinted from the Los Angeles Times.

Jordan, Israel sign agenda

(Continued from page 1)

range of outstanding issues and lead to "a comprehensive peace that will transform the lives of all our peoples."

Israel's chief peace negotiator, Elyakim Rubinstein, said the agreement with Jordan was "yet another step in a long road to peace." Mr. Rubinstein had opposed the accords with the PLO.

The product of 22 months of painstaking diplomacy, the Jordan-Israel agreement could lead to settlement of the border between the two countries and launch joint efforts to harness water resources and protect the environment.

Mr. Rubinstein said: "Today we are making yet another step in the long road to peace between Israel and Jordan within the joint effort provided by the Madrid formula towards a comprehensive peace."

"The direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan have achieved this common agenda, which obviously is more than a list of items to be negotiated. It details and summarises the principles which will guide us in the coming negotiations."

Israel and Jordan signed the document at the State Department where they have met periodically for the past two years as part of the U.S.- and Russian-sponsored peace talks.

Introducing the Israeli and Jordanian delegations, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher called the signing "a very important step toward that comprehensive peace" in the Middle East.

Since the PLO is not recognised as a state, the Israeli-Jordanian framework agenda marked the first agreement between Israel and an Arab state since the 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt.

"Yesterday I expressed the hope that we could see progress toward a comprehensive peace between Israel and all her Arab neighbors," Mr. Christopher said at the initiating ceremony.

"Today we take a very important step toward that very comprehensive peace with the initiating of the Israeli-Jordan substantive agenda... we believe today's

agenda, which has been finalised, will give a strong momentum to the other negotiations."

Russian Foreign Ministry official Victor Posvaluk echoed that view, saying "the success reached yesterday and today has to be supported by progress on all negotiating tracks. Only then will it be possible to reach a comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

The Israeli-Jordanian agenda outlines the main issues before the two countries as they negotiate peace with security, borders, water resources and Palestinian refugees living in Jordan (see separate stories).

In Amman, Jordanian officials had played down the significance of the signing.

"It is not a breakthrough but an ordinary event which deals with the issues that need to be debated by the Israeli and Jordanian delegations in order to reach a comprehensive peace," said Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Jordan has said the agenda has been ready for several months but was suspended until substantive progress was made on the Israeli-Palestinian tracks of the peace process.

But the PLO-Israeli autonomy accord warranted certain changes in the Jordanian-Israeli agenda and it had to be modified, a high-ranking Jordanian official said.

The official warned, however, that a Jordanian-Israeli peace deal cannot be signed unless the final status of the occupied territories was defined and their relations with Jordan spelled out.

In its initial blueprint the agenda said that borders between Israel and Jordan must be demarcated on the basis of boundaries charted during the British mandate over Palestine "without jeopardising the territories under the rule of the Israeli military administration."

But after the historic signing of the PLO-Israeli accord these territories should be referred to as autonomous Palestinian territory.

"We must quickly resolve our differences with Israel which are related to security and the de-

marcation of the country's southern border, in Wadi Araba," the official said.

He stressed that Jordan wanted to recover 350 square kilometres of territory — covering a strip between the Gulf of Aqaba and the southern tip of the Dead Sea, and territory in the north described as "crucial" for Jordan's access to water resources.

On another front, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, who played a key role in secret negotiations with the PLO, told USA Today that Israel was "ready to withdraw" from the Golan Heights in order to get a peace agreement with Syria.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad "will not find a more moderate government," Mr. Beilin said.

Syria meanwhile criticized the PLO over the White House ceremony of the signing of its peace deal with Israel, saying it had allowed the Jewish state to score a propaganda coup.

"Not a single tear was shed for the mothers of the Palestinian martyrs, who fell during Israel's aggressive wars against the Arabs," Damascus Radio said, referring to the signing Monday.

"The party in Washington was a good opportunity for (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin to polish up Israel's image. We don't know who to thank for giving him this chance," it said.

"Rabin wanted to take advantage of the White House ceremony to wipe out the memories of the terrorist character of Israel, which was so well shown up by the Syrian delegation" at the Middle East peace conference in October 1991.

Syria's official press gave front-page coverage to demonstrations to protest the historic PLO-Israeli autonomy accord, with headlines warning of a "catastrophe" to come in the Arab World.

A U.S. administration official said on Monday that Damascus had assured the United States it would use its influence on groups opposing the landmark accord for autonomy.

The official said, "we have been told by the Syrians that they would do what they can to affect those Palestinians who might be opposed but they also suggested that the scope of their influence might not be enough."

(Continued from page 1)

and Lebanon and Israel were lagging behind.

By the same token, now that Israel and the Palestinians have reached agreement, it is time for Jordan as well as the other parties in the peace process — Syria and Lebanon — to move ahead, he said. "We hope that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks will do the same (as Jordan) in the coming few days."

"We hope that the birth of this entity will give an incentive to all other parties to come together" and advance the peace process, he said of the Israel-PLO accord.

He also expressed hope that in view of the progress in the bilateral talks, Syria and Lebanon would drop their boycott of the multilateral negotiations "so that comprehensiveness will take place."

"We believe in a comprehensive peace settlement...," he said. "Peace cannot be in small pieces and (there can be no) separate peace treaty with any party. It is not in the interest of any Arab country to do that..."

The prime minister emphatically rejected suggestions that Jordan's role in the peace process was being marginalised and said the Kingdom would continue to play a leading role in regional affairs.

"Jordan is essential for everything. We are the joint for all sides in the four directions," Dr. Majali said. "We have done a great deal and the world knows about our rights. We hope this is appreciated by the whole world."

"We initiated peace... insisted on (Israeli) recognition of the separate leadership of the Palestinian people. We will continue our initiatives," he said. "We will not lose our stand."

The term "marginalisation of Jordan" is used by Israel to serve its own purposes, he said. "This ball game is no longer accepted," he said, adding that reports of "separate deals and agreements" are also used by the Jewish state to create problems among the Arabs negotiating peace with it.

Dr. Majali described Jordan's role in the peace process as being marginalised.

He pointed out that he is the military commander of the PLO, and added, "do you ask General (Colin) Powell to change his clothes?" Powell is the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Americans have watched with fascination as Mr. Arafat, 64, in checkered keffiyeh and military uniform, assumed the role of peacemaker, shaking the hand of Mr. Rabin and pledging to "give peace a real chance."

President Bill Clinton pledged to take the lead in marshalling international aid needed to make the autonomy plan work, but it remains to be seen how much the United States, beset by budgetary constraints, will contribute.

Majali announces separation of delegation

dan's reservations over the Israel-PLO agreement as "minor" and said the Kingdom would raise the issues with the PLO.

Most of the items included in the Israel-PLO agreement, which was worked out in secret negotiations in Oslo, Norway, were discussed in Washington during the bilateral talks, he said.

"We are going to look into it to see whether there are things that are going to hurt Jordan or not," he said.

He said Jordan had no reason to believe that the agreement had a "secret" annex and that such suggestions could be the work of those who oppose the peace process (U.S. official dismisses reports, page 10).

Dr. Majali ruled out forcing Jordanians of Palestinian origin to choose between Jordanian and Palestinian nationalities when a Palestinian entity is created in the occupied territories.

"They have a right to Jordanian citizenship," he said. It is a right that Jordan gave them, and "you cannot take it back. This is not a game... we cannot force and push people to do things."

"There will not be any pushing around," Dr. Majali said. "They are free. If they want to stay, they can stay. If not, they can go back to their homeland."

At the same time, Jordan would welcome the decision by Palestinians who choose to go back since it would boost their political leadership in the occupied territories, he said, dismissing a question whether Jordan had any specific numbers in mind.

In any event, he said at another point during the press conference, there were at least four different categories of Palestinians living in Jordan and elsewhere in the diaspora and their future was one of the key issues that the Kingdom would be negotiating with Israel. He did not provide any figures.

He said those who were forced out of Palestine in 1948 were "refugees," those who fled in 1967 were "displaced people," and those who were expelled by Israel after 1967 were "deportees."

And then there are the family reunification cases," he said.

The prime minister said the

Jordan-Israel agenda for negotiations clearly defined that a peace agreement would be based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 which call for peace in exchange for land.

He listed the five main topics and said:

"We have to discuss (everything), item by item, evaluating the effects," he said, adding that if the implementation of certain measures was found necessary to advance the process Jordan would do so as long as the "basic principles" for a peace agreement have been agreed upon.

"While Israel wants normalisation before... the principles, we are saying that agreement on principles will make us feel relaxed..." he said.

The prime minister said Jordan consistently opposed Israeli manoeuvres to retain its stranglehold on the economy of the occupied territories. He said the Kingdom rejected an Israeli move to impose a ceiling on possible Jordanian exports to the West Bank and impose custom tariffs.

Jordan, which is prevented by Israel from exporting to the occupied territories, buys up to \$70 million worth of Palestinian products every year.

The prime minister said the economic aspect of the PLO-Israeli agreement and the Jordanian role in it would be discussed in detail with the PLO.

In July, Jordan and the PLO formed six joint committees to deal with border and security affairs, refugees, economic cooperation, water, armament, and regional security and the environment. Only the border and security affairs committee and the economic cooperation committee have met so far.

Dr. Majali said Jordan would be sending a delegation to a Sept. 20 meeting at the World Bank on an economic development programme for the occupied territories. "Jordan is a state and it has its own (concerns) with the World Bank. The Palestinians will be there to take their (concerns) on their own hands. We will try to coordinate and help, each other."

(An informed official source said the delegation would be at expert level from the ministries of finance and planning and that Jordan had approved a World Bank report on economic development in the occupied territories).

mic development in the occupied territories).

Dr. Majali reiterated that any discussion on the proposal for a confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian entity had to await the restoration of Palestinian rights. Then, he said, both Palestinians and Jordanians would be asked to decide on the shape of their future relations.

"I imagine that it will be a confederation, but we have to consult the Jordanian people on this," he said.

Dr. Majali said Jordan was not underestimating the dangers that lurk in efforts for a comprehensive peace in the region. "The aftermath of peace is more dangerous than the aftermath of war since in war everything is destroyed and people are willing to accept anything," he said. But people will react positively when they are fully informed of the details, and see "the fruits of peace" the same way they react negatively when they see "bad things" resulting from peace.

The prime minister said Jordan was not formally aware of any PLO plans concerning the one brigade of Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) stationed in Jordan.

"If they (PLO) decide to take them to the West Bank it is their decision to do so," he said.

Dr. Majali said Jordan preferred to keep the peace talks in Washington "since we need the sponsors" to step in and when disputes arose.

Furthermore, he pointed out that moving the talks to the Middle East region was not feasible yet, if only because "we have not recognised Israel."



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Arafat woos U.S. Congress

(Continued from page 1)

Club luncheon and went on television, talk shows, to make his pitch for American support.

During the hour-long encounter, Mr. Arafat asked the senators to modify U.S. laws barring aid to the PLO so that Washington could provide financial backing for Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Mr. Mitchell told reporters Mr. Arafat had displayed "a very strong commitment to the process" and said Congress would work with the U.S. administration to find "the best and most appropriate way to take action."

He said he had ordered a complete review of the laws barring aid to the PLO.

Mr. Dole said Mr. Arafat's message was "well received."

"I didn't think I'd live long enough to meet Yasser Arafat in the United States Capitol," said the Kansas senator.

Mr. Arafat made no comments to reporters as he left the Senate, heading across town to address a luncheon gathering at the National Press Club.

He hoped to visit Jerusalem "very soon," he said.

Asked why he did not call on hardline Palestinian groups to renounce "terrorism," he pointed to the accord with Israel in which the PLO renounced violence and said, "I have done it."

The PLO leader planned a return trip to the Capitol in the afternoon to meet with members of the House of Representatives before flying to New York for a meeting with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali.

Mr. Arafat dismissed an Iranian declaration that it would mobilise Muslim fundamentalists in opposition to the Israeli-PLO accord as "slogans, slogans."

He said that two years ago he told Iranian president Hashemi Rafsanjani, "we are not going to import any confusion from any country."

He denied he supported Iraq in the Gulf war, saying his goal was "to solve this question within the Arab family." He said he early on called for withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

Mr. Arafat was ebullient in his press club appearance, drawing repeated laughter from the audience. When a questioner asked "who is your enemy now?" Mr. Arafat turned to moderator Clayton Boyce and said, "you."

Then laughing, he grasped Mr. Boyce's hand and said, "because he is quizzing me to much with his questions."

In contrast to Monday's formal ceremony in which he spoke in Arabic, Mr. Arafat spoke in English and discarded his prepared speech. He said he wanted to speak "from heart to heart."

Referring to East Jerusalem as "our Arab Jerusalem," he said

that United Nations resolutions require that Israel return it to Arab control.

Asked if he would accept international status for the city, Mr. Arafat smiled and replied, "ask Rabin if he will accept this internationalisation of Jerusalem."

Mr. Rabin has said he would never agree to relinquishing any part of the city.

"I have to respect what he's saying and I hope he will respect what I am saying," said Mr. Arafat.

He said a solution could be found "through negotiations and through good-will."

Asked whether he was daunted by the task of governing, Mr. Arafat said: "They have to understand that we have organised many countries as Palestinians."

He referred to Palestinians in exile who have served in

top management posts in a number of Arab states.

At the press club, Mr. Arafat was asked if he would change his military attire for civilian clothes. "I cannot do that," he said, appearing puzzled, unable to understand his accent. "A

chameleon," he explained.

He pointed out that he is the military commander of the PLO, and added, "do you ask General (Colin) Powell to change his clothes?" Powell is the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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Historic speeches on historic day

President Bill Clinton: Prime Minister Rabin, Chairman Arafat, Foreign Minister Peres, Mr. Abbas, President Carter, President Bush, distinguished guests.

On behalf of the United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, welcome to this great occasion of history and hope.

Today we bear witness to an extraordinary act in one of history's defining dramas, a drama that began in a time of our ancestors when the word went forth from a sliver of land between the River Jordan and the Mediterranean Sea. That hallowed piece of earth, and land of life and revelation is the home to the memories and dreams of Jews, Muslims, and Christians throughout the world.

As we all know, devotion to that land has also been the source of conflict and bloodshed for too long. Throughout this century, bitterness between the Palestinian and Jewish people has robbed the entire region of its resources, its potential, and too many of its sons and daughters. The land has been so drenched in warfare and hatred, the conflicting claims of history etched so deeply in the souls of the combatants there, that many believe the past would always have the upper hand.

Then, 14 years ago, the past began to give way when, at this place and upon this desk three men of great vision signed their names to the Camp David Accords. Today we honour the memories of Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat, and we salute the wise leadership of President Jimmy Carter.

Then, as now, we heard from those who said that conflict would come again soon. But the peace between Egypt and Israel has endured. Just so this bold new venture today, this brave gamble that the future can be better than the past must endure.

Two years ago in Madrid, another president took a major step on the road to peace by bringing Israel and all her neighbours together to launch direct negotiations, and today we also express our deep thanks for the skillful leadership of President George Bush.

Ever since Harry Truman first recognised Israel, every American president, Democrat and Republican, has worked for peace between Israel and her neighbours. Now the efforts of all who have laboured before us bring us to this moment, a moment when we dare to pledge what for so seemed difficult even to imagine: that the security of the Israeli people will be reconciled with the hopes of the Palestinian people, and there will be more security and more hope for all.

Today, the leadership of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation will sign a declaration of principles on interim Palestinian self-government. It charts a course toward reconciliation between two peoples who have both known the bitterness of exile. Now both pledge to put old sorrows and antagonisms behind them and to work for a shared future, shaped by the values of the Torah, the Koran and the Bible.

Let us salute, also, today the government of Norway for its remarkable role in nurturing this agreement. But of all — above all, let us today pay tribute to the leaders who had the courage to lead their people toward peace, away from the scars of battle, the wounds and the losses of the past, toward a brighter tomorrow. The world today thanks Prime Minister Rabin, Foreign Minister Peres and Chairman Arafat.

Their tenacity and vision has given us the promise of a new beginning. What these leaders have done now must be done by others. Their achievement must be a catalyst for progress in all aspects of the peace process. And those of us who support them must be there to help in all aspects, for the peace must render the people who make it more secure. A peace of the brave is within our reach. Throughout the Middle East, there is a great yearning for the quiet miracle of a normal life.

We know a difficult road lies ahead. Every peace has its enemies, those who still prefer the easy habits of hatred to the hard labours of reconciliation. But Prime Minister Rabin has reminded us that you do not have to make peace with your friends. And the Koran teaches that if the enemy inclines toward peace, do thou also incline toward peace.

Therefore, let us resolve that this new mutual recognition will be a continuing process in which the parties transform the very way they see and understand each other. Let the skeptics of this peace recall what once existed among these people. There was a time when the traffic of ideas and commerce and pilgrims flowed uninterrupted among the cities of the fertile crescent. In Spain, in the Middle East, Muslims and Jews once worked together to write brilliant chapters in the history of literature and science. All this can come to pass again.

Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Chairman, I pledge the active support of the United States of America to the difficult work that lies ahead.

The United States is committed to ensuring that the people who are affected by this agreement will be made more secure by it, and to leading the world in marshalling the resources necessary to implement the difficult details that will make real the principles to which you commit yourselves today.

Together, let us imagine what can be accomplished if all the energy and ability the Israelis and the Palestinians have invested into your struggle can now be channeled into cultivating the land and freshening the waters, into ending the boycotts and creating new industry, into building a land as bountiful and peaceful as it is holy. Above all, let us dedicate ourselves today your region's next generation. In this entire assembly, no one is more important than the group of Arab and Israeli children who are seated here with us today.

Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Chairman, this day belongs to you. And because of what you have done, tomorrow belongs to them. We must not leave them prey to the politics of extremism and despair, to those who would derail this process because they cannot overcome the fears and hatreds of the past. We must not betray their future. For too long, the young of the Middle East have been caught in a web of hatred not of their own making. For too long, they have been taught from the chronicles of war. Now, we can give them the chance to know the season of peace.

For them, we must realise the prophecy of Isaiah, that the cry of violence shall no more be heard in your land, nor wreck nor ruin within your borders. The children of Abraham, the descendants of Isaac and Ishmael, have embarked together on a bold journey. Together, today, with all our hearts and all our souls, we bid them Shalom, Salaam, Peace.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres: Mr. President, your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Mr. President, I

would like to thank you and the great American people for peace and support. Indeed, I would like to thank all those who have made this day possible. What we are doing today is more than signing an agreement; it is a revolution. Yesterday a dream; today a commitment.

The Israeli and the Palestinian people, who fought each other for almost a century, have agreed to move decisively on the path of dialogue, understanding and cooperation.

We live in an ancient land, and as our land is small, so must our reconciliation be great. As our wars have been long, so must our healing be swift. Deep gaps call for lofty bridges. I want to tell the Palestinian delegation that we are sincere, that we mean business. We do not seek to shape your life or determine your destiny. Let all of us turn from bullets to ballots, from guns to shovels. We shall pray with you. We shall offer you our help in making Gaza prosper and Jericho blossom again.

As we have promised, we shall negotiate with you a permanent settlement, and with all our neighbours a comprehensive peace, peace for all.

We shall support the agreement with an economic structure. We shall convert the bitter triangle of Jordanians, Palestinians, and the Israelis into a triangle of political triumph and economic prosperity. We shall lower our barriers and widen our roads so goods and guests will be able to move freely all about the places, holy and other places.

This should be another genesis. We have to build a new commonwealth on our old soil: a Middle East of the people, and a Middle East for the children. For their sake we must put an end to the waste of arms races and invest our resources in education.

Ladies and gentlemen, two parallel tragedies have unfolded. Let us become a civic community. Let us bid once and for all farewell to wars, to threats, to human misery. Let us bid farewell to enmity, and may there be no more victims on either side.

Let us build a Middle East of hope where today's food is produced and tomorrow's prosperity is guaranteed, a region with a common market, a Near East with a long-range agenda. We owe it to our fallen soldiers, to the memories of the victims of the Holocaust.

Our hearts today grieve for the lost life of young and innocent people yesterday in our own country. Let their memory be a foundation we are establishing today, a memory of peace on fresh and old terms. Suffering is, first of all, human. We also feel for the innocent loss of Palestinian life. We begin a new day. The day may be long and the challenges enormous. Our calendar must meet an intensive schedule. Mr. President, historically you are presiding over a most promising day in the very long history of our region, of our people.

I thank all of you, ladies and gentlemen, and let's pray together. Let's add hope to determination, since all of us since Abraham believe in freedom, in peace, in the blessing of our great land and great spirit.

From the eternal city of Jerusalem, from this green, promising lawn of the White House, let's say together in the language of our Bible: "Peace, peace to him that is far off and to him that is near," sayeth the Lord, "and I will hear." Thank you.

Mr. Mahmoud Abbas (PLO Executive Committee): Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, in these historic moments, with feelings of joy that are mixed with a maximum sense of responsibility regarding events that are affecting our entire region, I greet you and I greet this distinguished gathering.

I hope that this meeting in Washington will prove to be the onset of a positive and constructive change that will serve the interests of the Palestinian and the Israeli peoples.

We have come to this point because we believe that peaceful coexistence and cooperation are the only means for reaching understanding and for realising the hopes of the Palestinians and the Israelis. The agreement we will sign reflects the decision we made in the Palestine Liberation Organisation to turn a new page in our relationship with Israel.

We know quite well that this is merely the beginning of a journey that is surrounded by numerous dangers and difficulties. And yet our mutual determination to overcome everything that stands in the way of the cause for peace, our common belief that peace is the only means to security and stability, and our mutual aspiration for a secure peace characterised by cooperation, all this will enable us to overcome all obstacles with the support of the international community. And here I would like to mention in particular the United States government, which will shoulder the responsibility of continuing to play an effective and distinct role in the next stage so that this great achievement may be completed.

In this regard, it is important to me to affirm that we are looking forward with a great deal of hope and optimism to a date that is two years from today when negotiations over the final status of our country are set to begin. We will then settle the remaining fundamental issues, especially those of Jerusalem, the refugees and the settlements. At that time, we will be laying the last brick in the edifice of peace whose foundation has been established today.

Economic development is the principal challenge facing the Palestinian people after years of struggle during which our national infrastructure and institutions were overburdened and drained. We are looking to the world for its support and encouragement in our struggle for growth and development which begins today.

I thank the government of the United States of America and the government of the Russian Federation for the part they played and for their efforts and their sponsorship of the peace process. I also appreciate the role played by the government of Norway in bringing about this agreement. And I look forward to seeing positive results soon on the remaining Arab-Israeli track so we can proceed together with our Arab brothers on this comprehensive quest for peace. Thank you.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher: Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, Chairman Arafat, members of the Congress, distinguished visitors, guests, friends and colleagues, I'm honored to have witnessed the signing of this agreement on behalf of the United States.

Millions of people have dreamed of this moment, this moment for this very region. The Israelis and the Palestinians have taken a dramatic step toward a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace that can lift the lives of the people of the Middle East. They overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles in framing the declaration of principles and the terms for a mutual recognition.

They have broken through the barriers of hatred and fear. Throughout the process they have demonstrated extraordinary courage and statesmanship. This gives genuine hope that they will complete the journey that has begun today.

This achievement was the product of sustained effort, international in scope and thoroughly bipartisan here in the United States. The foundation for the breakthrough, as the president said, was laid at the Madrid conference of October 1991, which overcame the impediments to direct Arab-Israeli talks and launched a real peace process. The Madrid success in turn could not have been realized without its own foundation, the 1978 Camp David accords and the 1974 and 1975 disengagement agreements involving Israel, Egypt, and Syria.

In the distinguished group here assembled today seated down here in the front rows, I see those responsible not only for today's breakthrough, but also men and women who have toiled for decades in the search for peace in the Middle East. I salute and congratulate each one of you.

I also salute and congratulate those who have helped at particular times. In particular, I express appreciation to Foreign Minister Holst and his Norwegian colleagues, who worked under very difficult circumstances — and made it possible to facilitate the negotiation of the declaration of principles. We also owe a debt of gratitude to Foreign Minister Mousa and his Egyptian colleagues, and many, many others who gave unstinting help to the peace process.

We are all proud of this remarkable achievement, but we also understand that much remains to be done if this newly planted tree is to bear fruit.

The United States is committed to a comprehensive peace between Israel and all of its Arab neighbours. We hope and believe that this agreement will spur progress in the talks between Israel and Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. The United States is prepared to do its part in the negotiations that lie ahead. We will spare no effort in helping the parties turn the agreements at the table into realities on the ground. We will remain a full partner in the search for peace. But certainly we are not the sole partner. We need the entire international community to join us in this work and to oppose any effort to subvert the peace. This Israeli-Palestinian agreement cannot be permitted to fail.

Many, many problems remain to be solved. Today's historic agreement demonstrates that the Middle East does not need to be a cauldron of hostility; it can instead be a cradle of hope. Thank you.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev: Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of President Yeltsin, I would like to congratulate you and other colleagues and friends here who made possible, through their committed effort and goodwill, this major step on the long road to comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

I think it's really time to rejoice, but no time for euphoria. Unfortunately, this is only the first step, major but first step, on the long, long road. And I would like to assure you that Russia is one of the co-sponsors, not only witnesses, but co-sponsors. So the peace process will spare no effort together with the United States, with the United Nations, and other interested parties, to go on on this road and not let this major event to fail. It is — it is only ironic that in time when Middle Eastern peace process seems to be on track, and I'm sure it will move toward a lasting peace, there are other forces which threaten security in the region.

Three days ago, I was in Kabul, Afghanistan, and on Tajik-Afghan border, and even there we can see those forces of subversion, terrorism and extremism — religious and not only religious; political extremism — doing their destructive job. I know that in other parts of this region there are also signs of this new danger. And I hope that we will not limit our joint effort only to the peace between Israel and its neighbours, not only for the cause of Palestinians to gain their legitimate rights, but also to see, for stability in the whole region. And in this, Russia will be also a true and determined cosponsor.

Once again, thank you for the effort done by all the distinguished presidents, foreign ministers, actual and former. And I hope that further generations of politicians will be not so much doing with the peace but rather with the peace dividend in the Middle East. It's high time for that. Thank you.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin: President Clinton, the president of the United States, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

THIS signing of the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles here today, it's not so easy, neither for myself as a soldier in Israel's war, nor for the people of Israel, nor for the Jewish people in the diaspora who are watching us now with great hope mixed with apprehension.

It is certainly not easy for the families of the victims of the wars, violence, terror, whose pain will never heal; for the many thousands who defended our lives in their own and have even sacrificed their lives for our own. For them, this ceremony has come too late.

Today, on the eve of an opportunity, opportunity for peace, and perhaps end of violence and wars, we remember each and every one of them with everlasting love.

We have come from Jerusalem, the ancient and eternal capital of the Jewish people. We have come from an anguished and grieving land. We have come from a people, a home, a family that has not known a single year, not a single month, in which mothers have not wept for their sons.

We have come to try and put an end to the hostilities so that our children, our children's children, will no longer experience the painful cost of war, violence and terror. We have come — we have come to secure their lives and to ease the sorrow and the painful memories of the past, to hope and pray for peace.

Let me say to you, the Palestinians, we are destined to live together on the same soil in the same land.

We, the soldiers who have returned from battles stained with blood; we who have seen our relatives and friends killed before our eyes; we who have attended their funerals and cannot look into the eyes of their parents; we who have come from a land where parents bury their children; we who have fought against you, the Palestinians, we say to you today in a loud and a clear voice, enough of blood and tears. Enough.

We have no desire for revenge. We harbour no hatred towards you. We, like you, are people — people who want to build a

home, to plant a tree, to love, live side by side with you in dignity, in affinity, as human beings, as free men.

We are today giving peace a chance and saying to you — and saying again to you — enough. Let us pray that a day will come when we all will say farewell to the arms.

We wish to open a new chapter in the sad book of our lives together, a chapter of mutual recognition, of good neighbourliness, of mutual respect, of understanding. We hope to embark on a new era in the history of the Middle East.

Today here in Washington at the White House, we will begin a new awakening in the relations between peoples, between parents tired of war, between children who will not know war.

President of the United States, ladies and gentlemen,

Our inner strength, our higher moral values have been derived for thousands of years from the book of the books, in one of which, Koheleth, we read, "To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven."

A time to be born and time to die, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to love and a time to hate, a time of war and a time of peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, the time for peace has come.

In two days, the Jewish people will celebrate the beginning of a new year. I believe, I hope, I pray that a new year will bring a message of redemption for all peoples: A good year for you; for all of you, a good year for Israelis and Palestinians; a good year for all the peoples of the Middle East; a good year for our American friends who so want peace and are helping to achieve it.

For presidents and members of previous administrations, especially for you, President Clinton, and your staff, for all citizens of the world, may peace come to all your homes.

In the Jewish tradition, it is customary to conclude our prayers with the word "Amen" — as you said "Amen." With your permission, men of peace, I shall conclude with words taken from the prayer recited by Jews daily, and whoever of you volunteer, I would ask the entire audience to join me in saying "Amen." Amen.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat: In the name of God, the most Merciful, the Passionate. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to express our tremendous appreciation to President Clinton and to his administration for sponsoring this historic event which the entire world has been waiting for.

Mr. President, I am taking this opportunity to assure you and to assure the great American people that we share your values for freedom, justice and human rights — values for which my people have been striving. My people are hoping that this agreement which we are signing today marks the beginning of the end of a chapter of pain and suffering which has lasted throughout this century.

My people are hoping that this agreement which we are signing today will usher in an age of peace, coexistence and equal rights. We are relying on your role, Mr. President, and on the role of all the countries which believe that without peace in the Middle East, peace in the world will not be complete.

Enforcing the agreement and moving toward the final settlement, after two years, to implement all aspects of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 in all of their aspects, and resolve all the issues of Jerusalem, the settlements, the refugees and the boundaries will be a Palestinian and an Israeli responsibility. It is also the responsibility of the international community in its entirety to help the parties overcome the tremendous difficulties which are still standing in the way of reaching a final and comprehensive settlement.

Now as we stand on the threshold of this new historic era, let me address the people of Israel and their leaders, with whom we are meeting today for the first time, and let me assure them that the difficult decision we reached together was one that required great and exceptional courage.

We will need more courage and determination to continue the course of building coexistence and peace between us. This is possible, and it will happen with mutual determination and with the effort that will be made with all parties on all the tracks to establish the foundations of a just and comprehensive peace. Our people do not consider that exercising the right to self-determination could violate the rights of their neighbours or infringe on their security. Rather, putting an end to their feelings of being wronged and of having suffered an historic injustice is the strongest guarantee to achieve coexistence and openness between our two peoples and future generations. Our two peoples are awaiting today this historic hope, and they want to give peace a real chance.

Such a shift will give us an opportunity to embark upon the process of economic, social and cultural growth and development, and we hope that international participation in that process will be extensive as it can be. This shift will also provide an opportunity for all forms of cooperation on a broad scale and in all fields.

I thank you, Mr. President. We hope that our meeting will be a new beginning for fruitful and effective relations between the American people and the Palestinian people.

I wish to thank the Russian Federation and President Boris Yeltsin. Our thanks also go to Secretary Christopher and Foreign Minister Kozyrev, to the government of Norway and to the foreign minister of Norway for the positive part they played in bringing about this major achievement. I extend greetings to all the Arab leaders, our brothers, and to all the world leaders who contributed to this achievement.

Ladies and gentlemen, the battle for peace is the most difficult battle of our lives. It deserves our utmost efforts because the land of peace, the land of peace years for a just and comprehensive peace. Thank you.

Mr. President, thank you, thank you, thank you.

President Clinton: We have been granted the great privilege of witnessing this victory for peace. Just as the Jewish people this week celebrate the dawn of a new year, let us all go from this place to celebrate the dawn of a new era — not only for the Middle East but for the entire world.

The sound we heard today, once again as in ancient Jericho, was of trumpets tooting walls, the walls of anger and suspicion between Israeli and Palestinian, between Arab and Jew. This time, praise God, the trumpets herald not the destruction of that city but its new beginning.

Now let each of us here today return to our portion of that effort, uplifted by the spirit of the moment, refreshed in our hopes and guided by the wisdom of the Almighty, who has brought us to this joyous day. Go in peace. Go as peacemakers.

Azerbaijan's young men prefer tea and talk to fighting a war

By Vanora Bennett
Reuters

BAKU, Azerbaijan — The enemy is coming, hundreds of thousands of refugees are pouring out of the war zone, and the army is in chaos — but you would never guess it in the calm, sunny streets of Azerbaijan's capital.

The front, from which 200,000 people are fleeing from advancing Armenian forces, is 400 kilometres away but getting closer every day.

It is a city that was the oil capital of the world earlier this century, young men are packed open-air cafes chat idly all day over lamb kebabs and endless glasses of weak tea or watch waves gently lapping the shore of the Caspian Sea.

Others loiter in the new commercial shops of the post-Soviet era, examining stereos and television sets from Turkey and beyond, their eyes and gold

teeth gleaming.

Still more cruise aimlessly around in scruffy cars. With these young men crowding the streets of Baku, who is fighting the war?

At the front, Azerbaijan's bedraggled army can do nothing but run from Armenian units walking virtually unimpeded through the south, having seized large areas of western Azerbaijan earlier this year.

Determined ethnic Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountain area inside Azerbaijan, have declared independence and swept the Azeris out of their territory. Now they are spreading outside it, east towards Baku, backed by neighbouring Armenia.

Aid workers say there have been remarkably few casualties in the latest surge forward, in which Armenians have taken control of four southern Azeri districts bordering Iran. This, they say, is a sign there is little fighting.

Ask a Baku man why he is not at the front and he will bridle, but not at an implied slight to his patriotism.

"What do you take me for?" said Javed, a waiter. "Do you think I don't know how to fix things? You wouldn't catch me fighting out there."

For the streetwise youth of Baku, the "otrochka" or army deferral document, is an essential accessory. It helps to have friends in high places to get one, but if you do not have friends in high places to get one, but if you do not have the right strings to pull you can always just ignore your call-up.

"My brother got his call-up papers the other day," said Idayat, an unemployed man eating kebabs. He laughed.

"But he's out a lot. He's a real one for the girls and we hardly ever see him. So he doesn't even know yet. I shouldn't think he'll go to the war, he's having too

much fun here."

Some reluctant soldiers hitch rides home from the front.

"It's impossible to tell how many men have been captured in fighting and how many are just hiding out with their parents," a fatigued Defence Ministry official said.

Only the very young and naive are still dying in this war. The latest few hundreds graves in the huge martyrs' cemetery, festooned with flags and bright flowers, are all for teenagers.

"Azeris speak a form of Turkish but it's a mistake to assume they have the toughness of Turks," said one western diplomat. "This is an ethnically muddled place, and what Azeris are is gentle Persians with Turkish and Russian overlays."

"They're lovers, not fighters," he added.

"If Azeri men will not fight, who will stop the invasion? The

Baku rumour-mill is buzzing with the open secret that Afghan military experts are in town. Desperate hopes are voiced that they may be able to turn the tide of the war.

About a dozen are living at the new Intourist Hotel, watching television, smoking, drinking tea and driving off for consultations every day in an army van.

Some speak Russian and say they are from Kabul. Others describe themselves as Pakistani and speak American-accented English. They just smile when asked why they are in Baku.

"Who else can we turn to?" one hotel employee said wearily. "They're military men, yes, and the government's paying their bills. I've heard there are more of them out in the countryside. No one else will help us, so we have to turn to them."

Meanwhile, the oilmen whose western wealth was going to put independent Azerbaijan on its

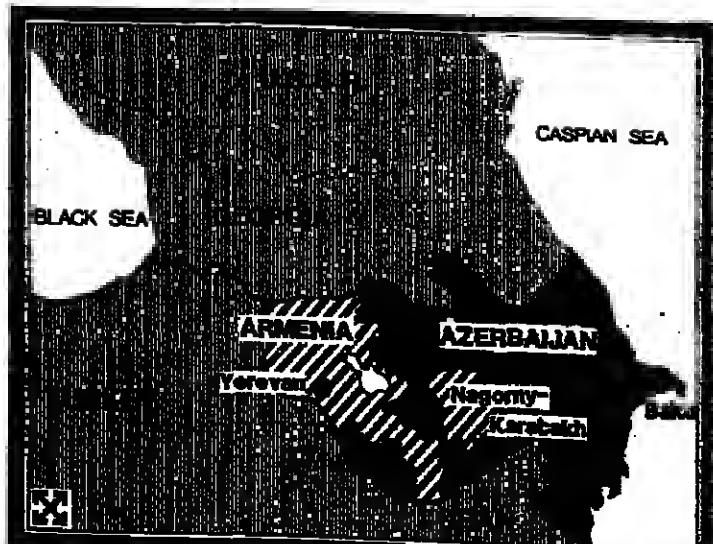
feet — and finance the war — with a drilling deal worth \$9 billion of investment, have had enough of waiting for Azeri officials to sign their contract.

Most have been here for two years and three presidents, several chaotic changes of government, one armed rebellion, one separatist revolt, one referendum, one election and regular political arrests. Each convulsion delays signing.

In spite of a carefree appearance, many Azeris in Baku are increasingly fearful. They blame President Abulfelz Elchibey, who fled in June after a year of military losses, for their woes.

Most hope returned Soviet-era leader Heydar Aliyev, back in charge since an armed rebellion against Mr. Elchibey, will end the war, even if that can only be done by dumping their dreams of independence and moving back into Moscow's embrace.

"Only Aliyev can save us now," said Cengiz, a former student. "If he doesn't do it fast, there'll soon be Armenians swimming in the Caspian and we won't have a country to save."



Hamas attack shows PLO needs strong Gaza force

By Robert Mahoney
Reuters

GAZA — The huge task awaiting Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation in adequately policing the teeming Gaza Strip was highlighted by the killing of three Israeli soldiers by Hamas militants.

Under the Israeli-PLO interim self-rule agreement, Israel should pull most of its troops out of the Israeli-occupied territory within six months.

The PLO would then take over security for the one million Palestinians crammed into Gaza's squalid refugee camps and scrubby towns.

But it seems a moot point whether Mr. Arafat's forces can control the area effectively without a massive buildup of men and military hardware that many Israelis would regard as threatening.

Under the agreement, Mr.

Arafat has not only to keep the peace between Muslim militants and factions of his own PLO but also stop Arabs attacking Jews in Israel and settlements inside Gaza.

As if to illustrate the dangers, shortly after Hamas killed the three soldiers in an ambush in Gaza City on Sunday, an Arab stabbed an Israeli bus driver to death just north of the strip.

The assailant was killed by a soldier but if he had escaped no doubt he would have sought refuge in Gaza. Should a future assault flee across the Gaza border, what would Mr. Arafat's police do?

As yet, the agreement does not give the Israeli army the right of hot pursuit. So in theory the PLO force would have to arrest and prosecute an attacker.

"They will have a very difficult time turning a fellow Arab over to Israel for justice," said Joseph Alpher, director of the Jaffee

Centre for Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv.

Mr. Alpher is one of three Israelis who have had secret contacts with PLO security officials for the past eight months. The contacts were outside the secret meetings between Israel and the PLO in Norway which led to the self-rule agreement.

"We will want to see (attacks) in jail," Mr. Alpher told Reuters. "This has to happen and be seen to happen. Gaza cannot become a safe haven."

Mr. Alpher said he met Nizar Amar, security adviser to Abu Mazen, a top Arafat aide. Mr. Amar and other PLO officials were acutely aware of the need to bring Hamas under control, he said.

"This is a test. They genuinely understand that to fail is to cede the territories to Hamas or risk Hamas rolling back in," he said.

Hamas, the strongest of the Islamic militant groups in Gaza, opposes the PLO-Israeli agree-

ment but says it will not ignite a Palestinian civil war by targeting a future PLO security force.

But it also says it will not renounce armed struggle to overthrow Israel which it views as a Jewish "crusader" state which has been driving Arabs off their land since 1948.

Hamas's military wing, the Qassam Brigade whose small, well-armed units have defied Israeli crackdowns, claimed responsibility for killing the three soldiers on Sunday.

"We have to create a force that will be able to oppose Hamas by force," said Mr. Alpher, noting that the agreement to be signed on Monday contained no specific provision for Israel to share intelligence with the PLO to forestall guerrilla attacks.

Security experts from the two sides are due to begin meeting one month after the signing to devise a security mechanism within six months.

Faisal Al Hussein, the senior PLO leader in the occupied West Bank, said last month the PLO police force should number 20,000 to 30,000 men, with half coming from outside the occupied territories.

PLO sources say the core of the force, to be known as the Palestine central security force, will be drawn from the thousands of former PLO guerrillas and soldiers scattered throughout the Arab World in the Palestine Liberation Army.

Mr. Alpher estimated that much lower numbers would be needed because the Israeli army was not due to withdraw from most of the West Bank for the next five years.

"A security force with armoured vehicles, one or two helicopters and heavy machineguns is needed... You cannot ask them to fight with pistols," he said, adding: "If we get it right, this will be no threat to Israel."

Israel can trust PLO, Arafat's brother insists

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Through decades of war and bloodletting, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was nothing more than an extremist organisation in Israel's eyes — until the wall collapsed under the pressure of peace.

It is now time for Israel to trust the organisation and its Chairman Yasser Arafat, according to his younger brother Mohsen Arafat. Hours before the two sides were to sign a historic pact ending nearly a century of enmity between Jews and Palestinians, the 45-year-old dentist insisted the PLO leader was "an honest man."

He beamed as he spoke of his brother's "triumph" and of the Palestinian self-rule accord reached at secret talks in Norway between Israel and the PLO.

"They have to trust Arafat," he told AFP, referring to charges from the Israeli right-wing opposition that the PLO only wanted a foothold in the occupied territories to pounce on Israel.

"I have known him as an honest man who has never lied to anyone," insisted the brother, who has lived in the United Arab Emirates for the last 18 years.

"This agreement concerns the whole Palestinian people and when the Palestinian state is established, it will be subject to the agreement and to international guarantees," he said.

"I am convinced that the 'Gaza-Jericho first' plan is the beginning of mutual confidence between the Palestinians and the Israeli people."

The veteran PLO leader was in Washington on Monday for the signing ceremony on the White House lawn of the accord on interim autonomy starting in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

He has been under fire from Palestinian hardliners and Muslim fundamentalists who reject the autonomy accord as a sell-out, and dissidents have threatened his life.

"Such threats are not new. Arafat's life has been in danger for a long time and he has survived several assassination attempts," Mohsen Arafat said.

"The agreement represents a return to realism by all parties. I am hopeful it will lead to an independent homeland because as you see, it says Gaza-Jericho first not Gaza-Jericho only," he said.

"Arafat's dream was to return to Palestine and it was my dream to see him in Palestine. He is now crowning all those years of struggle," said Mohsen Arafat.

"As a Palestinian, I am proud of him because the agreement has asserted our rights on our land and Israel for the first time acknowledges there is a Palestinian people," he said.

"Arafat is now entering the White House and is received by President (Bill) Clinton as a representative of the Palestinian people. This has never happened in Palestinian history."

Mr. Mohsen, who looks like the 64-year-old PLO chairman but without the beard and keffiyeh, has another brother, Fathi Arafat heads the Palestinian Red Crescent.

"I have also known him as a passionate and caring man," he said, referring to his famous brother.

"He loves children and sometimes he is deeply touched and even cries in certain situations. The last time I saw him, he said to me: 'I haven't seen your children for a long time, send me their photographs soon'."

Helping Arafat — a delicate balancing act for Israel

By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israel has invested heavily in its longtime nemesis Yasser Arafat, betting he can set up a smoothly running autonomous government, even though the PLO is bitterly divided and scrapping for cash.

That may be asking too much of Mr. Arafat, but giving a helping hand poses a dilemma for Israel.

If Israel gives too much, Mr. Arafat may look like a dupe and lose credibility among Palestinians at a time when he needs all the friends he can get.

If Israel stands aloof, chaos may overwhelm the Palestinians and the peace accord could blow up in Israel's face as well as in Mr. Arafat's.

"It is in Israel's interest that Arafat succeed," said Asher Susser, an expert on Israeli-Palestinian relations at Tel Aviv University.

Israeli officials have made it clear that they would like to share intelligence information with Mr. Arafat's police force, which will draw on Palestinian fighters from around the Arab World.

Israel's military is also anxious to brief Palestinians about the day-to-day running of government functions to assure a smooth handover.

One indication of Israel's desire to protect its investment came earlier this month when security was visibly tightened around Mr. Arafat and his top aides following warnings relayed by Israeli parliament member Yael Dayan.

PLO sources said the information came from Israel's secret

service, but Ms. Dayan said she merely cautioned Mr. Arafat aide Bassam Abu Sharif to take care.

"I think it will be difficult for Mr. Arafat to maintain law and order without some kind of cooperation with Israel," Mr. Susser said.

"It is less of a problem for Israel to offer him assistance than it is for Arafat to accept it."

Palestinian opponents of the Israel-PLO accord said the new ties could prove difficult for Mr. Arafat and force him to carry out Israeli policies that would ruin his credibility with large segments of the Palestinian public.

"This is very ironic, this interdependence between Arafat and Israel," said Bassam Shakaa, who was deposed by Israel as mayor of the West Bank city of Nablus. "It will prove to be a very complicated relationship."

At Israel's insistence, Mr. Arafat has pledged to stop terrorism and discipline anyone who violates his non-violence pledge. Mr. Shakaa said this could lead Israel to demand that Mr. Arafat rein in militants by force if he wants to expand autonomy to other areas besides Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

He will have no choice but to do it," said Mr. Shakaa. "Economic cooperation may prove easier, but also contains risks."

Mr. Arafat hopes to receive billions of dollars in aid from both western countries and Arab oil states.

Arab donors cutoff support to the PLO after Mr. Arafat backed Saddam Hussein of Iraq in the

1991 Gulf war, but they are expected to resume aid to the occupied lands once the accord is signed.

With PLO coffers reportedly empty, such aid is critical. Tens of thousands of Palestinians, especially in the Gaza Strip, are out of work as the result of Mr. Arafat's closure of the occupied lands on March 31 following a wave of stabbing attacks.

More than 100,000 Palestinians came to work every day in Israel before the closure, but only about half that number do today.

Jacob A. Frenkel, governor of Israel's Central Bank, said interdependence would be "very strong" as part of the autonomy agreement with relatively free trade and access for workers to jobs in Israel.

Mr. Frenkel said the peacekeeping would create an environment of "tranquility" that would attract foreign investment.

He said \$50 million to \$75 million in immediate economic aid would be needed for water, sewage and other infrastructure, followed by \$250 million to \$300 million per year in development aid.

He said Israel would do its share to help but declined to say if it would offer to give up part of the \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees allocated for Russian immigrants.

Palestinian leaders have said that with quick aid the self-rule government would not be able to show that peace pays and that could undermine Mr. Arafat's authority, as well.

"If there is no security and stability...if there is anarchy and violence, then there will be no investments," said Daniel Issa, a businessman from the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Per capita GDP in Gaza was \$850 in 1991, compared with \$1,700 in the West Bank and \$11,962 in Israel, where most Gazans would work if they were allowed.

Many Israelis have long regarded Gaza as a millstone. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is quoted as having said he wished it would slip into the sea.

Its misery and oppression have become a fertile recruiting ground for militant Islamic groups like Hamas which have eaten away at Mr. Arafat's PLO powerbase during the intifada.

For that reason Mr. Arafat needs to pour money and his own police force in to the strip from the start. Otherwise Mr. Rabin may move to have handed him not cornerstone of a Palestinian state but a poison chalice.

Autonomy accord follows decades of conflict

PARIS (AFP) — Key dates in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians:

November 29, 1947: The U.N. General Assembly adopts a plan to partition British-mandated Palestine into independent Arab and Jewish states. Jerusalem was to be put under international control as a holy city for Jews, Muslims and Christians. Fighting breaks out between Jews and Arabs, leaving 1,700 dead.

May 14, 1948: Hours before the end of the British mandate, David Ben Gurion proclaims Israel's independence. It is immediately recognised by the United States, followed by the Soviet Union. The following day Arab armies invade the new Jewish state.

January 7, 1949: The first Arab-Israeli war ends with Israel in possession of more territory than had been allotted to it under the U.N. partition plan. Jerusalem is divided into two sectors. Armistice agreements are signed in Rhodes, Greece, between February and July establishing the new borders between the Jewish state, which controls 70 per cent of former Palestine, and its Arab neighbours. Around 850,000 Palestinians are forced into exile.

May 11, 1949: Israel becomes a member of the United Nations.

December 13, 1949: The Israeli parliament declares West Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

April 24, 1950: King Abdullah annexes the West Bank to the Transjordan, creating the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

October 29, 1956: The second Arab-Israeli war erupts into an international crisis. The Israeli army invades the Sinai Peninsula three months after Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalises the Suez Canal. Israel, joined by French and British forces, halts its offensive after condemnation from the United States and Soviet Union. Israel withdraws in March 1957 and is replaced by U.N. peacekeeping forces. Israel returns to its 1949 borders.

May 28, 1964: The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is formed in Jerusalem and draws up a national charter. The charter, revised in 1968, states that the "armed struggle is the sole means of liberating Palestine" and calls for the "elimination of Zionism in Palestine."

Yasser Arafat becomes head of the PLO in 1969.

June 5, 1967: After the withdrawal of U.N. troops from the Sinai and Egypt's blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba, Israel launches the Middle East war, seizing East Jerusalem, the Sinai, Gaza, the Golan Heights and the West Bank. Israel now occupies land four times larger than in 1949. It annexes East Jerusalem on June 27.

November 22, 1967: The U.N. Security Council adopts Resolution 242 calling for the "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict."

The French version of the resolution reads "...from the territories occupied..."

...The resolution also calls for "guaranteeing the territorial inviolability and political independence of every state in the area, through measures including the establishment of demilitarised zones."

July 1971: The last Palestinian "fedayeen" are expelled from the Kingdom, Lebanon becomes their main base.

October 6-25, 1973: Egypt and Syria launch a surprise offensive in the Sinai and on the Golan to recapture land lost in 1967. After heavy fighting, the operation fails to gain new land. But Israel signs a disengagement agreement with Syria on the Golan in May 1974. In September 1975, Israel signs a similar accord with Egypt on the Sinai.

December 21-22, 1973: Arabs and Israelis, except Syria and the Palestinians, hold their first direct negotiations in Geneva.

November 13, 1974: Yasser Arafat addresses the U.N. General Assembly in New York. "I have come bearing an olive branch in one hand and a freedom-fighter's gun in the other," he told the delegates. "Don't let the olive branch fall from my hand."

April 13, 1975: Civil war breaks out in Lebanon after around 30 Palestinians are shot dead on a bus driving through a Christian neighbourhood of Beirut in the latest of a series of clashes between Christians and Muslims.

November 19, 1977: Egyptian President Anwar Sadat travels to Jerusalem and addresses the Israeli parliament on the first visit to Israel by an Arab leader.

September 17, 1978: The Egyptian-Israeli Camp David accords are signed in the United States, under the auspices of U.S. President Jimmy Carter, providing for the return of the Sinai to Egypt and autonomy for the occupied territories. Israel hands back most of the Sinai in 1982, but the autonomy plans never proceed.

March 26, 1979: Egypt becomes the first — and to date the only — Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel, in Washington. Sadat is assassinated by Muslim fundamentalists in October 1981.

July 30, 1980: The Knesset, Israeli parliament, proclaims the whole of Jerusalem the "reunited capital of Israel." It is not recognised by the international community.

December 14, 1981: Israel announces its annexation of the Golan Heights.

April 25, 1982: Israel hands back to Egypt all of the Sinai Peninsula except for the Tabah enclave, which it gives back in March 1989.

June 6, 1982: Israeli troops invade Lebanon. Operation "Peace in Galilee" is officially meant to protect Israel's northern border against attacks and infiltration by Palestinian groups.

August 31, 1982: After the siege of Beirut by the Israeli army, PLO leader Yasser Arafat leaves the Lebanese capital, which had been the Palestinian headquarters since 1971, accompanied by some 15,000 Palestinian guerrillas.

September 16-18, 1982: 1,500 Palestinian civilians are massacred by Lebanese Christian militiamen in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps outside Beirut. The militiamen were under the control of Israeli occupying forces. An Israeli investigative commission acknowledges the Israelis' "indirect responsibility."

October 1, 1985: More than 170 Palestinians and Tunisians are killed or wounded in an Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters near Tunis. Mr. Arafat, whose office is completely destroyed, narrowly escapes death.

December 9, 1987: Beginning of the Palestinian uprising known as the intifada in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

November 15, 1988: The Palestine National Council (PNC), the exiled parliament, proclaims in Algiers the creation of an independent Palestinian state and accepts U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and the partition of Palestine, implicitly recognising the existence of Israel. The PNC rejects all forms of terrorism including terrorism by the state.

May 2, 1989: Mr. Arafat declares the PLO charter "obsolete."

August 1990-February 1991: During the Gulf crisis triggered by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the PLO sides with Baghdad whose forces launch Scud missiles against Israel.

Oct. 30, 1991: Start of the Middle East peace talks in Madrid between Israel and all Arab countries in direct conflict with it, namely Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, as well as the Palestinians. During the talks Israel refuses any direct participation by the PLO, but closes its eyes to contact between Palestinian delegates and the PLO.

1993

January 19: The 1986 law forbidding those living within Israeli jurisdiction to have any contact with "terrorist" organisations is abolished. But the Israeli government continues to consider the PLO a "terrorist organisation."

April 9: Israel accepts for the first time the inclusion of Faisal Hussein, a leading nationalist, as a potential negotiator who is also close to Arafat, in the Palestinian delegation in the talks.

August 29: Israel announces an agreement in principle with the PLO on autonomy for the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

August 30: The autonomy accord, concluded by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO officials in Oslo on August 19 after a series of secret meetings, is approved by the Israeli cabinet.

Sept. 10: Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO leader Yasser Arafat sign the letters sealing the mutual recognition by the two foes.

Sept. 13: The historic Israeli-PLO autonomy agreement is signed in Washington.

Peace fixer Abu Mazen — the quiet PLO dove

By Abdelaziz Barrouti
Reuters

TUNIS — Abu Mazen, the Palestinian negotiator who engineered a breakthrough peace deal with Israel in secret talks, has been the inconspicuous dove in the PLO leadership since the 1970s.

Yasser Arafat's number two in the Palestine Liberation Organisation team in Washington to sign the accord, he was chosen as the man to put his name on the historic document.

Abu Mazen, whose real name is Mahmoud Abbas, was one of the earliest members of the mainstream Fatah group led by Mr. Arafat.

Unlike many other leading Fatah members, he won his spurs not as a guerrilla commander but as one of the PLO's main contacts with European sympathisers and Israeli leftists.

Only recently, as his overtures to Israelis began to take centre stage in the PLO's diplomatic strategy, has he become better known to the world at large.

Undeterred by Palestinian radicals who say he is too conciliatory, Abu Mazen remains convinced that it is in Israel's best self-interest to make peace, his aides say.

This strengthened the Palestinians' negotiating position prior to the talks, compensating them to some extent for the massive disadvantage of living under occupation without an army of

their own, he says.

In 1992, shortly after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin returned to power in Israel, he swam against the tide of Palestinian opinion, arguing that the PLO should chip away at a narrow gap between what Mr. Rabin did and what he said.

Abu Mazen thinks Israel has embarked on a slow transition from being an extension of Europe and North America to becoming a truly Middle Eastern state with some western connections.

Born in Galilean town of Safad in 1935, Mr. Abbas fled for Syria when the new state of Israel came into being in 1948.

He studied law at Damascus University and then, like hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians, found work in the newly rich Gulf Arab states.

While Mr. Arafat and most of his colleagues lived in Kuwait, Abu Mazen's home was further south in what is now the United Arab Emirates, a country with which he still has close links.

He had a job as a civil servant, joined Fatah in 1965 and from 1967 onwards, when he became a member of the Fatah Central Committee, he devoted himself full-time to political work.

Israeli affairs were his speciality and in the late 1970s he completed a doctorate on the subject for Moscow University.

Academic work brought him into contact with Israeli leftists disposed towards dialogue with Palestinians, some of the Soviet Union and its allies.

Abu Mazen was elected to the PLO Executive Committee in 1980 and since 1984 he has been the head of the PLO's Pan-Arab and International Affairs Department.

Despite his title he has never tried to challenge the role of the PLO's veteran "foreign minister," Farouk Kaddoumi, who is head of the Political Affairs Department.

Mr. Kaddoumi is not among the eight senior PLO figures in the delegation to Washington. He spoke on Thursday against the agreement and would not agree to sign it.

Abu Mazen carried out discreet missions for Mr. Arafat for years, especially in Eastern Europe and the Gulf.

Some PLO members have named him as a potential successor to Mr. Arafat but others say he could not command broad enough support because of his close association with PLO moderates.

Abu Mazen has been particularly active in the last two years, firstly as one of the PLO leaders coordinating with the Palestinians negotiating with Israel in Washington and then as one of the main players in the secret Norwegian mediated talks with Israel which produced the deal.

List of the Palestinian groups for and against

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) peace agreement with Israel has split the Palestinian movement in two.

Without opinion polls and with many floating voters, it is difficult to say which group is the majority — those who support it or those who oppose.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat won approval for the agreement in the PLO Executive Committee last week but many members were absent and the committee does not represent all Palestinian groups.

Hamas and other Muslim fundamentalist movements, as well as some groups based in Damascus, are not members of the PLO.

The main groups which support Mr. Arafat are:

— Fatah, Mr. Arafat's own group and probably the largest single political organisation in the Palestinian movement. But by no means all Fatah is fully behind him. Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's "foreign minister," as well

as founding members Khaled Al Hassan and his brother Hani, have reservations about the agreement. So far these leading sceptics have not adopted a position of outright opposition.

— The Tipline-based faction of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), led by Yasser Abed-Rabbo. The group has been one of Mr. Arafat's most loyal and valuable allies since the PLO adopted a two-state solution in 1988.

— The Palestinian People's Party, formerly the communist party, led by Sulaiman Najab. Mr. Najab supports the agreement but has reservations about the haste with which Mr. Arafat has pushed it through PLO institutions.

— The Palestine Popular Struggle Front, led by Samir Ghosheh, a Damascus-based splinter group which uses the same name as the group which opposes the agreement.

— Many independents, including five members of the PLO Executive Committee and some prominent Palestinians from the occupied territories, such as Faisal Al Hussein, the overall coordinator of the outgoing Palestinian negotiating team, Hani Ashrawi, the spokeswoman for the negotiating team, and Saeb Erekat, the deputy head. These three have worked closely with Fatah for the past two years.

The main groups opposed to the peace agreement are:

— The Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement), which has become especially strong in the Gaza Strip, less so in the West Bank. Hamas says the Israeli state is illegal and armed struggle is the way to recover all the original Palestine. Arafat supporters say Hamas is a magnet for young Palestinians driven to despair by poverty and unemployment. If conditions improved in the occupied territories, they could win some of them back, they say.

— The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), led by George Habash. The PFLP, one of the few remaining Marxist groups of significance in the Arab World and now the second largest PLO group, is an unusually cohesive and consistent force with members wherever there are large Palestinian communities. Though their ideological origins are completely different, the PFLP and Hamas share the same aims.

— The Damascus faction of the DFLP, led by Nayef Hawatmeh. The DFLP probably used to be the second largest group in the PLO but an internal squabble over Mr. Arafat's diplomatic strategy, followed in 1991 by a divorce between the two wings, has weakened support for it on the ground.

— A collection of other like-minded groups close to either Syria and Iraq. Some are members of the PLO, others are splinter groups which the PLO does not recognise. The most prominent

groups are the Palestine Liberation Front, led by Abul Abbas, the PFLP-General Command, led by Ahmad Jibril, and Fatah Uprising, led by Abu Musa. The last two groups, with military support from Syria, attacked and defeated Mr. Arafat's forces in Lebanon in 1983. Fatah Uprising has threatened to kill Mr. Arafat.

— Some smaller Muslim fundamentalist groups such as Islamic Jihad and Islamic Jihad in Palestine.

— Some independent members of the PLO Executive Committee, such as Abdullah Hourani and Shafiq Al Hont. Unlike the hardline groups, they accept a two-state solution. Their main complaint about the peace agreement is that it does not guarantee the Palestinians a state.

— Fatah Revolutionary Council, led by Abu Nidal. The group is tiny, with perhaps only a few hundred members, but it has repeatedly hit the headlines through assassinations and bombings, many of them directed at Mr. Arafat's supporters.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bentzen warns against reopening farm accord with EC

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentzen warned Monday that reopening the Blair House accord with the European Community on limiting farm subsidies would be a mistake and a setback for a broader accord on world trade. "The Blair House accord was a concession in that, just as the European farmer made concessions in that, just as the European farmer," Mr. Bentzen said when asked about the accord aimed at resolving differences on global trade talks. "And if you open it up, both sides will once again ask for more." The agreement signed last November by the United States and EC representatives was seen as a major step towards resolving differences between the two major trading blocs in General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations. But the deal has been criticised by France, where farmers have fiercely opposed the pact. And Paris has sought to organise support within the European Community to reopen the accord. Mr. Bentzen said, "I would very much hope and advise the European Community not to reopen the Blair House accord. I think it would be a serious mistake and a setback for GATT, and I have so advised some of my European colleagues." He added that an EC conference being held on the matter "has delayed some of the negotiations in Geneva on GATT."

Japanese wholesale prices fall 0.6% in August

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese wholesale prices in August fell by 0.6 per cent from the figure in July and 4.1 per cent from the figure a year earlier, reflecting lower steel, energy, electronics and food prices, the Bank of Japan said on Tuesday. The decline followed a fall of 0.1 per cent in July when the Central Bank's wholesale price index dropped by 3.4 per cent from the figure a year earlier. The bank said that domestic wholesale prices fell by 0.2 per cent from the figure the previous month after remaining unchanged in July. Export prices fell by two per cent after rising 0.5 per cent in July while import prices plunged by 4.3 per cent following a decline of 0.9 per cent. The average exchange rate for the dollar during the month was 103.68 yen, down from 107.83 yen in August.

British manufacture d production rises 0.7 in July

LONDON (AFP) — British manufactured production rose by 0.7 per cent in July from the figure in June, the Central Statistical Office said on Tuesday. Total industrial production, including output from the energy sector, rose by 0.8 per cent. Analysts had forecast that manufactured production would rise by 0.8 per cent while total industrial output would rise by 1.7 per cent. Measures against July 1992, manufactured output rose by 1.7 per cent and total industrial output rose by 2.8 per cent. In June, industrial production fell by one per cent from the figure in May while manufacturing output fell by 2.1 per cent.

Indonesia to purchase 32 Boeing planes from Lufthansa

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesia plans to purchase 32 second-hand Boeing 737 aircraft from the German airline Lufthansa, a press report quoted Research and Technology Minister Bacharudin Jusuf Habibie as saying. The purchase of 30 300-seat B-737 passenger planes and two B-737 cargo planes, would be of economic benefit to Indonesia which needed a large number of aircraft but lacked the funds, the Bisnis Indonesia daily quoted Mr. Habibie as saying. Mr. Habibie said that the planes were less than 10 years old. He said that the flag carrier Garuda Indonesia, which was rescheduling a plan to purchase two new Boeing 737-400s and seven B-737-300s worth \$650 million; was one of airlines which would operate the second-hand planes. The planes would be distributed to other airlines such as Mandala, Sempati, Bouraq and Garuda's subsidiary Merpati Airline, he said. Mr. Habibie said that team from the Indonesia government had visited Germany last week to negotiate the deal with Lufthansa. Lufthansa representatives in Jakarta were not available for comment.

Cathay Pacific to launch freighter service between Asia, Vancouver

HONG KONG (AFP) — Hong Kong flag carrier Cathay Pacific Airways is to launch the only freighter service between Asia and Vancouver starting on October 3, the airline said Tuesday. The twice-weekly service will leave Hong Kong on Wednesdays and Sundays, flying Hong Kong-Los Angeles-Vancouver-Hong Kong with technical stops in Seoul and Anchorage. The decision to launch the service was due to the recent decision by British Columbia authorities to end a fuel tax on freighter services.

Israel to sell \$400m in bonds

NEW YORK (AP) — Will favourable publicity over Israel's historic peace pact boost the popularity of the government's IOUs? Sellers of \$400 million in new Israeli bonds hope so. The government of Israel on Monday sought regulators' clearance to sell \$400 million in bonds, saying it would use the proceeds to pay for such projects as absorbing immigrants and building houses. The filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington coincided with the signing of the historic peace pact between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. A spokesman for the Development Corporation for Israel, the New York-based underwriter for Israeli government bonds, said that the bond sale was not timed to benefit from the good feelings over Israeli peace. But he said he believed the publicity would help bond sales, which have been increasing over the last few years. Israel sold \$712 million in bonds in global financial markets so far this year. "More people have inquired about purchases of state of Israel bonds since discussions of the peace process were in the media. More people are inclined to inquire about an area of peace than an area of war," said Mark Benson, the spokesman.

OPEC oil price rescue bid depends on Saudis, Iran

LONDON (Agencies) — A new rescue bid for collapsing oil prices may depend on whether traditional rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran are in a mood to compromise when OPEC meets in Geneva 12 days from now. The outcome of the conference "could turn on a coin," said Mehdi Varzi, a leading analyst who follows the petroleum industry for London-based Kleinwort Benson Securities. Failure at the OPEC (Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) meeting might mean oil at \$10 per barrel. Prices were steadier on Monday but hung precariously just under \$16 for the Benchmark Brent blend after a violent fall last week. They are down from nearly \$20 in March and at the lowest since before the Gulf war, as pressed by prospects that the United Nations may soon ease the embargo that has kept Iraqi oil off the market since that conflict. The market is now also sceptical on whether OPEC, amid new tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran, can agree on output quotas to curb excess supply even without Iraq. The shape is now emerging of a possible OPEC accord. A key OPEC deal-maker, Venezuelan Oil Minister Alfredo Parra, has at least put a figure on the table, of 24.5 million barrels daily, for a new overall OPEC output ceiling from October 1. Some brokers were sceptical of the proposal which Mr. Parra aired in the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES). But even on gloomy views of worldwide demand, a limit of \$24.5 million should — on paper — support prices. Based on forecasts by the West's International Energy Agency, it would force western oil company to draw down their bloated stocks of about a million bpd. But everything depends on getting all 12 OPEC members to sign up to individual quotas within such a ceiling at levels that — unlike now — they would actually honour. In particular, neither Iran nor Kuwait deem current quotas fair and both are exceeding their assigned limits. Delegates said one formula would freeze Saudi Arabia on its current 8.0 million barrels, a huge one-third of all OPEC oil, but increase the quotas for Iran, Kuwait and Nigeria. Saudi Arabia, however, does not see why it should forgo a quota increase and cede percentage market share just to "reward" Iran for its alleged excess output of recent months. On its side, Iran may revive its argument that Saudi Arabia should cut rather than freeze. Mediators like Mr. Parra will try to bridge the apparent Saudi and Iranian positions during OPEC talks starting September 25. Western industry executives note that weak prices have in the past tended to coerce OPEC into agreement. Iran and, less acutely, the Saudis both need revenue. But no OPEC seller will easily cede market share just now because all need the highest possible base from which to make the inevitable cuts when, sooner or later, Iraq sells oil again. The Associated Press reported from New York that energy futures prices advanced across the board in moderate but uneven trading Monday. Next-month delivery of light sweet crude oil, which lost 21 cents on Friday, added 19 cents to settle at \$16.95 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Refined petroleum products traded on the exchange gained modest ground. Unleaded gasoline for delivery in October added 0.10 cent to settle at 48.57 cents a gallon, and home heating oil for delivery next month settled at \$1.39 cents a gallon, up 0.04 cent. The near-term crude contract has fallen about \$2 per barrel in recent weeks amid indications of slack worldwide demand and increasing OPEC production. With crude oil at its lowest level since just before Iraq invaded Kuwait more than three years ago, "all technical indicators" crying out for the market to be "one analyst said. There was virtually no reaction to a proposal by Mr. Parra that OPEC's October-December production be increased to 24.5 million barrels a day, 900,000 barrels higher than the current ceiling. MEES comments: "only confirmed a fact that the market already knows," — that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries is producing above its output ceiling, the analyst said.

World Bank eyes investment needs in West Bank, Gaza

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The World Bank estimates that the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip — now on the verge of Palestinian self-rule — will need at least \$3,000 million over 10 years to build up their basic public economic infrastructure. The 40-page bank report, "Developing the Occupied Territories: An Investment in Peace," released September 12, is based on intensive field work by the bank staff over the past several months in collaboration with Palestinians, Israelis and Jordanians. The report was prepared on behalf of the sponsors of the Middle East peace talks. It underscores the urgent need for a major upgrading of the physical and social infrastructure in the occupied territories so that living conditions can improve and private-sector investment can be stimulated. The focus of investment in the early years should be on the rehabilitation and upgrading of public infrastructure and services in water supply, sewerage, solid waste, road transport, electricity, education, and health, the report says. The focus in the long term, it says, should include investment in power generation, expansion of health, education and transport services, the modernisation of educational curriculum, and upgrading of the universities. Cairo Kook-Weser, the bank's vice president for the Middle East and North Africa, said the report "provides a solid foundation for the international community to address the urgent development needs of the West Bank and Gaza Strip." He said such efforts "are necessary to enhance the chances for a lasting peace in the Middle East." Mr. Kook-Weser, who visited the occupied territories last April, said the bank is ready "to explore with the donor community how the technical and financial needs of the West Bank and Gaza can be funded" and how the bank can help to coordinate such assistance. Prospective donors are expected to lay down a preliminary framework for aid to the occupied territories in talks to be held at the World Bank on September 20. The 10-year \$3,000-million economic development plan envisages investments in the public sector of about \$1,300 million in the first five years. The report notes that the \$3,000-million figure is a conservative one under the scenario of a "smooth transition" from occupation to self-rule by the Palestinians. The figure could climb if Palestinian employment in Israel falls and the private sector does not develop sufficiently; also if there is a major movement of population such as the return of Palestinians living abroad. External donors — including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) — currently spend about \$175 million a year in the occupied territories. The report says external aid flows would have to be "roughly doubled" from present levels to around \$350 million a year to meet the financing needs of the public sector while taking into account certain recurrent expenditures from earlier years. Current support from private external flows is estimated at \$200 million to \$250 million per year from remittances by the 200,000 Palestinian workers in the Gulf countries, Europe and North America. The report's projections assume a continuation of private flows at this level. The report points out "key institutional and policy areas" where adjustments are needed to achieve sustainable economic and social development. For example, the legal and regulatory framework would need to be adjusted to support private sector initiatives; the management of public finances, such as the tax system, would need to be put on a sound footing to attract external assistance and

support the private sector, the management of public infrastructure, such as public utilities, would need to become more efficient, accountable and autonomous. The report says that a critical element of the strategy for achieving sustained economic and social development is the major upgrading of physical and social infrastructure services to be undertaken mainly by the public sector. But the report says that public sector investments should support rather than preempt private initiative. The report says that after the concerned parties agree on the findings of the report, the next step would be for the donor community to mobilise funds of up to \$35 million to help launch the initial phase of the technical assistance programme. The report says that because of the relatively large size of the proposed technical assistance programme and the lack of experience in the occupied territories in managing such programmes, "careful attention would need to be paid to the implementation arrangements." It notes that for the technical assistance to be relevant and useful, "clearly the Palestinians would need to have a major decision-making role in the design and administration" of the programme. This would in turn require significant support from the Israeli civil administration in the occupied territories themselves. The report says a preliminary analysis suggests that with "good policy" a growth rate of more than 3 per cent in per capita incomes is sustainable, with a total rise in incomes of 40 per cent in 10 years. The gross national product (GNP) per capita in 1991 was \$1,715. Such a scenario is contingent on there being a "smooth" phase-out of Palestinians from the Israeli labour market and provided there are adequate external and private capital inflows of about \$2,500 million during the five-year transition period. The report warns that in case there is a "sharp" reduction in employment of Palestinians in Israel, the short-run situation in the occupied territories is likely to be much worse, requiring an additional \$350 million in external inflows over the first five years. By "good policy," the report assumes: — a peace agreement that resolves strategic uncertainty sufficiently to provide the basis for private capital inflows and investment in productive activities; — a relaxation of supply-side constraints, including deregulation and improvements in the supply of economic infrastructure and industrial land; — trade arrangements that allow substantial trade expansion in the region and elsewhere; — a strong public finance framework with substantially expanded revenues including taxes now accruing to the Israeli treasury; — a major strengthening of the administrative and policy-formulating capability of the emerging, interim self-governing authority; — a strengthening of the human resource base both by stepped-up training programmes and by access to entrepreneurial and professional skills of the Palestinians living abroad.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Virgin Sun is joined by the New Moon, also in Virgo and four strong positive aspects bringing you some excellent creative ideas and sharply focusing your special abilities and energies.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You see ways by which you can make your environment much more to your liking by adding charm, beauty but some changes can be good for your plans.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A recreation that appeals to you comes up in the morning but don't definitely commit yourself as later you find an even more attractive entertainment.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have an idea for making your home more livable and harmonious and it is good even though additional ways to bring this to pass will come up.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Consider communication carefully before you respond to them for before the day is out some inspired thought occurs making them more effective.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You visualise ways to add to your income and revenue early but don't make decisions until later in the day as better additions can be made tonight.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your personal desires for new ways to gain long range plans in the morning are the and as the day proceeds they become better and better so expand them.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You want to get off to some new interests which is fine but don't plan exactly how you will attain them as new arrangements can come into being.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You start to do something that you are attached to but don't be surprised if some changes occur in that person's plans and go along with them.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Matters of a worldly nature

Dollar, stocks finish morning session lower

TOKYO (AP) — The U.S. dollar fell against the Japanese yen in morning trading Tuesday, while prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange slipped on profit-taking. Around noon, the dollar was quoted at 105.68 yen, down 0.42 yen from Monday's close to 106.10 yen and also lower than its overnight New York close of 106.27 yen. After opening at 106.23 yen, the dollar ranged between 105.50 yen and 106.23 yen. Dealers said profit-taking following the dollar's gains over the four previous sessions pushed the U.S. currency down. The dollar had risen a total of 2.00 yen, or 0.2 per cent, on lingering speculation that Japan would soon lower its official discount rate. The discount rate is the interest the Bank of Japan charges on loans to commercial banks. A lower rate would make yen-denominated investments less profitable. Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno told a news conference Monday that the Central Bank was not considering a rate cut. On the stock exchange, the 225-issue Nikkei stock average fell 102.91 points.

THE BETTER HALF, By Glasbergen



"Your socks disappear in the wash and suddenly reappear in the strangest places!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ADURF
ESTAE
RUINJY
ROUGAC

WHAT THE ROMANTIC SPANIARD PICKED IN HIS SWEETHEART'S GARDEN.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PLUME AMITY DETACH LUNACY
Answer: What the waiter did when asked how the seafood was — HE CLAMMED UP

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon

ACROSS
1 St. — a fire
5 Bestows generously
10 Autocrat
14 Secular
15 Albert
16 City in Hawaii
17 Role played by Ginger Rogers
19 Manchurian river
20 Leading
21 Noblemen
23 "The Blue —" (James Mason)
24 — and cons
27 Playfully mock
28 Wisdom
32 Type of engine
36 Surrealistic
37 Mired
38 Inscribed stone
40 Assorted abbr.
42 Balaclava helmet
44 Desert Storm missile
45 Attitudinizes
47 Asian jumper
48 Summerize
49 Refresh
50 Truman's Secretary of the Treasury
62 Dot rd of
64 Savage
66 European river
67 Question word
68 Cruising
69 VP in Kuwait
75 Upper limit
76 Finger game
77 Opposed
78 Inquired
79 Sarcastic attack
79 Nuisance
74 Tilt
75 Lat. I word

DOWN
1 Nevada town
2 Remained
3 Baseball glove
4 Many-armed creature
5 Ump's kin
6 Sur
7 Pastoral poem
8 Egyptian
9 Hit the ceiling
10 Friend's
11 Sarcastic
11 Pet with blue eyes
12 — brave
13 Sauce thickener
16 Belgian town
22 Estrada
25 Hep
26 Rabbit tails
28 Debauch, at
29 Cesspools
30 Charged atom
31 Moves wily
32 Outward
34 Dock
35 Took on freight
36 King of the
37 Many-armed
41 Sky up land
43 Split
46 Antithesis
48 Absolutely not
51 Scoundrel
53 Fruit of the maple
55 Rent out
56 Embrace
58 Use a stop
60 Alaskan island
62 Dutch cheese
63 Director Kazan
64 Baseball team
66 — as a hole
68 Japanese money
69 Bank items

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1 St. — a fire
5 Bestows generously
10 Autocrat
14 Secular
15 Albert
16 City in Hawaii
17 Role played by Ginger Rogers
19 Manchurian river
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ARABIAN FINANCIAL MARKET						
ROBINSON BANK CENTER ARABIAN - AMERICAN						
TELEPHONE: 663710 / 663710						
ORGANIZED MARKET INDEX PRICE LIST FOR THURSDAY 14/07/1993						
MONTHLY STATEMENT						
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOL	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	TRADED VOL	PREV. CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	900,126	500.00	183.000	190.000		
ARAB NATIONAL BANK	36,049	6,200	6,240	6,260		
BANK OF JORDAN	000	4,100	4,300	4,300		
HIDLYE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	29,987	2,110	2,200	2,200		
TRUSTED INVESTMENT BANK	81,869	1,800	1,800	1,800		
THE HOUSING BANK	85,894	5,650	5,600	5,700		
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	45,809	1,000	1,030	1,070		
JORDANIAN ISLAMIC BANK	1,900	3,000	3,000	3,000		
BOLKES BANK	5,693	4,530	4,550	4,580		
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	8,400	1,800	1,800	1,800		
RETAIL BANK SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	7,033	4,850	4,850	4,850		
HOUSING FOR INVESTMENT	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000		
PRELIMINARY INVESTMENT BANK	37,707	1,000	1,000	1,000		
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	36,373	3,760	3,790	3,790		
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	582,429	2,370	2,400	2,480		
TRUSTED ELECTRIC POWER	1,560	1,560	1,560	1,560		
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	9,880	5,020	5,200	5,200		
JORDAN POSTING & SPA COMPLEX	26,540	0,530	0,530	0,530		
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	66,744	4,370	4,270	4,280		
ARAB STATE INVESTMENT	6,340	1,790	1,790	1,780		
JORDANIAN BANKING INVESTMENT	1,978	1,560	1,560	1,560		
UNITED SECURITIES & BROKERAGE EXCHANGE	260	1,100	1,040	1,040		
ARABIAN TRUST, TRADING & MANAGEMENT	1,000	1,120	1,120	1,120		
PESTO HOLDING BANK & COMMERCIAL HOTELS	108,304	3,460	3,460	2,410		
JORDANIAN TRADING & INVESTMENT	1,000	1,120	1,120	1,120		
KYANOSER COMPANY, JORDANIAN MANUFACTURING	9,880	2,100	2,110	2,110		
THE JORDAN GROUP	873	2,100	2,100	2,100		
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICALS	1,878	1,730	1,780	1,780		
JORDAN PETROLEUM SERVICES	1,000	30,000	30,000	30,000		
MOSES INDUSTRIES	1,000	2,600	2,600	2,600		
THE JORDANIAN COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	24,880	0,000	7,350	7,350		
THE JORDANIAN WATERS MILLS	1,000	1,120	1,120	1,120		
ARAB POLYMERICAL MANUFACTURING	231,745	8,830	8,900	9,000		
JORDAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	35,000	7,600	7,600	7,600		
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	27,139	3,000	3,030	3,040		
JORDANIAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES	1,000	1,120	1,120	1,120		
SPINNING & WEAVING	36,220	2,740	2,740	2,800		
JORDANIAN INDUSTRIES	1,000	1,120	1,120	1,120		
ARAB DAIRY DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	134,900	10,000	17,000	17,000		
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	34,997	2,880	2,700	2,740		
ARAB MACHINERY EXCHANGE	14,944	8,900	8,900	10,150		
GENERAL TRADING	938	3,750	3,750	3,780		
ARAB TRADING EXCHANGE & TRADING	8,820	8,900	8,900	8,900		
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	47,020	0,320	0,330	0,330		
JORDAN STEEL INDUSTRIES	14,118	1,600	1,600	1,600		
TRANSJORDAN PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	23,180	3,720	3,800	3,800		
JORDAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,000	2,610	2,600	2,600		
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,000	1,120	1,120	1,120		
JORDAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,000	0,420	0,430	0,430		
JORDAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,000	3,300	3,300	3,300		
JORDAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	0,335	3,720	3,720	3,720		

Norway's Labour keeps power; voters hit plans to join EC

OSLO (R) — Norway's ruling Labour Party has strengthened its position in a general election but voters may have shattered its plans for Norway to join the European Community (EC).

While Labour gained slightly in Monday's vote, the bitterly anti-EC Centre Party surged to become second-largest party behind Labour in the 165-member parliament — and vowed to step up its fight against EC membership.

Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, 54, said the government would continue talks with Brussels on joining the EC, arguing that Norway cannot risk isolation in northern Europe after the cold war.

"The Labour Party has won the declaration of support we asked for," said Mrs. Brundtland, a three-time prime minister, whose party has been buoyed by signs of an economic recovery despite persistently high unemployment.

"This is a shot across the bows for EC supporters," said Centre Party leader Anne Enger Lahnstein, 43, known as the "no queen" in Norway for her passionately anti-EC views.

With about 90 per cent of the vote counted Tuesday, Labour was set to win 67 seats, up from 63 in the last election in 1989. The minority government can keep power by creating informal alliances with smaller parties.

The Centre Party was headed to win 31 seats, up from 11 in 1989. It says EC membership would mean sacrificing independence and giving up control over natural resources such as North Sea oil and fisheries.

"Knock out against the EC," the daily Verdens Gang said in a front-page headline.

Strongly anti-EC parties would win more than the 42 seats, or 25

per cent of the vote, needed to block membership even if Norwegians vote "yes" to EC membership in a possible referendum in 1994 or 1995.

Norway's 1814 constitution would demand a 75 per cent vote in parliament to supplement any "yes" in a referendum. Ms. Lahnstein says she will not necessarily respect a narrow "yes" from voters.

Norwegians said "no" to EC membership the last time they were asked, in 1972, and recent polls show most are against even though neighbouring Finland and Sweden have also applied to join.

Pro-EC parties on the right-wing were the big losers in Monday's vote, bucking a swing towards the right in many European nations since the end of the cold war.

The Conservatives, traditionally the second biggest party behind

Labour and arguing for tax cuts and curbs on Norway's generous welfare state, were likely to slump to 29 seats, the party's worst showing since 1973, from 37.

But a computer failure in the capital meant that full results from Oslo could be delayed until Thursday. And the glitch could force a new vote for the 15 Oslo seats.

Centre Party leader Ms. Lahnstein, a former nurse, said she might cooperate with Ms. Brundtland, an international campaigner for the environment and women's rights, on issues other than the EC.

Among other anti-EC parties, the Socialist Left Party slipped to 13 seats from 17 and the Christian Democrats lost a seat to 13. On the far-right, the >EC Progress Party was set to lose 12 of its 22 seats.

Mitterrand falls ill on arrival in S. Korea

SEOUL (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand fell sick during a welcoming ceremony in his honour shortly after arriving in South Korea Tuesday but was able to resume his schedule after 30 minutes, witnesses said.

Witnesses said Mr. Mitterrand, 76, was signing the visitors' book at the presidential Blue House in Seoul before a meeting with South Korean President Kim Young-Sam when he vomited into his handkerchief.

He was led off to private quarters at the Blue House to recover, leaving French officials, host and his South Korean hosts looking worried.

But reporters and photographers at the ceremony said Mr. Mitterrand, looking frail but smiling, reappeared after a half-hour rest and was well enough to

start scheduled talks with Mr. Kim.

Sources close to the French president said Mr. Mitterrand was suffering "a light malaise" brought on by his long flight from France and the heat.

"The president had a glass of water and a short rest. But he is well enough to resume his programme," one source said.

Mr. Mitterrand is not the first foreign VIP to fall ill in connection with a visit to South Korea. Ex-President George Bush the United States collapsed last year at a banquet in Japan the day after visiting Seoul. Mr. Bush's aides blamed food poisoning for the attack.

Mr. Mitterrand and his delegation, including ministers of foreign affairs, industry, transport

and research and a dozen major industrialists and businessmen, were met by Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo two hours before the Blue House ceremony.

French sources said the visit was to demonstrate France's wish to develop further trade and investment here and to boost political ties.

The visit comes barely a month after Seoul awarded a consortium by France's GEC-Alsthom a \$2.4 billion deal to provide a Grande Vitesse (TV) to run a 400 kilometres high-speed rail link between Seoul and Pusan.

French officials said South Korea, with its booming economy, was now a major partner for France. The TV deal, clinched over German rival Siemens AG, should be the starting point

for a further boost in bilateral exchanges.

Officials in Seoul expect Paris to play a key role in helping South Korean exporters striving to gain more access to the European market.

South Korea is seeking to diversify exports away from its biggest trading partners, the United States and Japan, but Seoul's eagerness to sell to Europe has often met with import restrictions, including stiff anti-dumping duties.

Mr. Kim, in an interview published Monday by the French daily Le Figaro, said he wanted France to overtake Germany and Britain to become South Korea's top trade partner in the European Community and help it boost exchanges with the group.

Croatia, Krajina Serbs set conditions for talks

ZAGREB (AP) — U.N. officials urgently sought to find some agreement for a ceasefire between rebel Serbs and the Croatian army, to halt a flareup of fighting that threatens to rekindle Croatia's dormant war.

Both sides indicated they would consider discussing U.N. proposals for a truce, but only if certain conditions were met, according to a U.N. statement issued in Zagreb.

Gen. Jean Cot, commander of U.N. forces in former Yugoslavia, met Tuesday with the Croatian army commander, Gen. Janko Bobetko, but there were no details of the talks, said a U.N. official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In a confidential report, the Croatian News Agency (HINA) said Gen. Cot later went to Serb-controlled Gradacac.

Despite U.N. efforts, Serb-Croat fighting was reported around the town of Gospić and the Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, said Serbs shot down a Croatian MiG Tuesday over the region around Karlovac.

A truce between Serbs and Croats, which ended Croatia's six-month civil war in 1991, appears to be unraveling despite the presence of 14,000 U.N. peacekeepers.

Serbs, backed by the Yugoslav army, captured about one-third of Croatian territory in the war which claimed at least 10,000 lives.

The latest fighting erupted last Thursday when the Croatian army captured three Serb-held villages, including one where Serbs threatened "massive retaliation," published a list of 50 possible targets, and shelled Zagreb suburbs. Eight people were killed in attacks on Croat-held Karlovac, about 50 kilometres southwest of reb.

Heavy artillery battles raged in Karlovac Monday in which at least three people were reported killed, U.N. officials had no immediate reports of fighting Tuesday, but Croatian TV reported that Serbs shelled the town of Gospić.

A U.N. official said there was no physical evidence that Croa-

tian plane was shot down. But he said four MiGs left a Croatian base Tuesday morning and only three returned. The Croatian Defence Ministry refused to comment.

The renewed fighting prompted the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees to make plans to evacuate 1,000 mostly Muslim Bosnian refugees from Karlovac, said agency spokeswoman Alemka Lisinski. Croatian authorities evacuated 1,000 Croat refugees from the town Monday.

Late Sunday, Gen. Cot proposed that both sides issue a ceasefire and withdraw to lines held before the Croatian army offensive last Thursday, with a strong U.N. presence in the area, the U.N. statement said.

The dispute centres over three villages — Citluk, Divoselo and Pocitelj — retaken by Croats in the latest offensive.

Gen. Mile Novakovic, commander of the Croatian Serb forces, responded Monday that he would accept "most elements of the proposal," the U.N. statement said. It also said Gen.

Bobetko, the Croatian commander, indicated that his side would accept the U.N. proposal on condition U.N. forces take "exclusive control" of the three villages.

Croatian officials are impatient over U.N. failure to enforce a peace plan and return Serb-held Krajina to them. Serbs say they will never submit to Croatia's rule.

Meanwhile, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman met in Geneva Tuesday with the president of neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic. International mediators hope the talks will clear obstacles and allow peace talks on ending the 17-month war in Posnia to resume.

The meeting appeared to have an effect on the ground. Cmdr. Idesbald Van Biesebroeck, a spokesman for U.N. peacekeepers in Sarajevo, said fighting was relatively light in the contested city of Mostar, allowing the evacuation of 41 Muslims from the eastern sector of the divided town Monday.



A recent picture shows an Angolan army artillery in action in the Cuanza Sul Province (AFP photo)

Brazil sells 6,000 missiles to Angola

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) — Private Brazilian arms maker Avibras delivered 1,000 missiles to Angola in August, the first of 6,000 units sold for about \$160 million, the news weekly Veja reported.

The magazine said President Itamar Franco authorised the sale of X-40 and X-60 missiles to Angola, where President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos' government is fighting South African-backed rebels with the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

The X-40 is the most accurate of the three missiles made by Avibras. It is capable of hitting a target 40 kilometres from the launch site within two metres. Each unit costs \$26,000.

Brazil has had close ties with Angola since its 1975 independence. Last year, then-Foreign

Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso, who since has become Brazil's finance minister, urged the U.S. government to halt aid to UNITA.

Trade between Angola and Brazil, two former Portuguese colonies, is worth \$1 billion annually, Veja reported.

UNITA agreed to a ceasefire and peace accord in 1991, but war broke out again late last year when UNITA refused to accept the results of U.N.-supervised general elections which it lost.

headed by Jonas Savimbi.

The Foreign Ministry, the Army Ministry, the Armed Forces Chiefs of Staff and the Secretariat of Strategic Affairs all approved the sale.

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'Fed up' Shevardnadze resigns

TBILISI (AFP) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze announced he was resigning Tuesday after legislators resisted his call for emergency powers to combat rebellions which have wrecked havoc on the country.

"I am fed up with the insults and the humiliations... I resign," Mr. Shevardnadze told a session of parliament convened to debate his call for a nationwide state of emergency.

The Georgian leader immediately stormed out of the hall accompanied by Defence Minister Georgi Karikashvili and remained in his office along with his close aides.

Lawmakers however overwhelmingly rejected in a vote his offer to resign and called on Mr. Shevardnadze to remain at his post but the Georgian leader stated in a letter to deputies that their show of support had come "too late" and that he intended to quit.

Meanwhile, several thousand supporters of the former Soviet Foreign Minister, who returned to lead his homeland in March 1992, gathered in front of the

parliamentary building as Georgian security forces took up positions.

Mr. Shevardnadze's announcement came after former government official and deputy Dzhaba Ioseliani accused the Georgian leader of attempting to establish dictatorial rule.

Mr. Ioseliani condemned Mr. Shevardnadze's decision to reshuffle his cabinet and take on the responsibilities of the Interior Ministry, a move that was to allow the Georgian leader to boost the powers of government forces fighting rebels loyal to ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Many viewed the offer of resignation as a possible ploy by the Georgian leader to push through his demand for emergency rule and temporarily suspension of parliament.

Under the special regime he was seeking, political activities were to be restricted, rallies and demonstrations banned and control over the media tightened.

Forces loyal to Mr. Gamsakhurdia have over the past

month launched an uprising in western Georgia to protest the withdrawal of Georgian troops from the breakaway region of Abkhazia.

The rebels, opposed to a Russian-brokered peace agreement for Abkhazia signed by Mr. Shevardnadze on July 28, have seized several towns near the Black Sea port of Poti and the village of Gali, located inside breakaway Abkhazia.

"Those who do not surrender their arms will be destroyed," Mr. Shevardnadze warned this weekend, adding: "The state has the forces at its disposal to do this."

With the war in Abkhazia nearly settled, the Georgian leader faced the prospect of yet more bloodshed from fighting with supporters of Mr. Gamsakhurdia who was ousted from power in January 1992 following a brief civil war.

Mr. Shevardnadze, who won victory in a general election last fall, has been embroiled in ruinous conflicts with pro-independence fighters in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Hanoi welcomes Clinton embargo decision

HANOI (R) — Vietnam Tuesday welcomed President Bill Clinton's decision to ease the U.S. economic embargo but said remaining sanctions would keep U.S. companies on the sidelines.

U.S. and Vietnamese businessmen, who hoped Mr. Clinton would end the 29-year-old embargo, were also disappointed by his decision only to let U.S. firms compete for development for contracts to be funded by multilateral bodies such as the World Bank.

"I welcome any relaxation of the embargo. It's a step in the right direction," one American executive in Hanoi said. "But it

falls far short of what is needed, which is to get rid of the goddamn thing."

The Foreign Ministry welcomed Mr. Clinton's action as a measure towards easing the sanctions.

"Nevertheless, it's a pity that the United States still maintains its embargo policy against Vietnam, which runs counter to the trend of international and regional development and does not match progress in U.S.-Vietnamese cooperation on humanitarian questions," it said in a statement.

This remark referred to increased Vietnamese help for the

U.S. drive to determine the fate of more than 2,000 servicemen still listed as missing-in-action (MIA) from the Vietnam War and U.S. help for Vietnam in accounting for its 300,000 MIAs.

Vietnam pledged in the statement to continue to cooperate on the MIA question, the central issue for Mr. Clinton in any steps to establish normal relations.

The Foreign Ministry said the U.S. embargo policy could not prevent Vietnam's renovation and its expanding foreign relations, in line with an open door and market economy policy decided by the country's Communist rulers in the late 1980s.

Azerbaijan, Karabakh agree to summit

MOSCOW (AFP) — Azerbaijan took a first step Tuesday towards recognising the demands of separatist Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh by agreeing to hold a summit meeting with their leaders after nearly six years of war.

Minutes before a ceasefire between government forces and separatists from the disputed enclave was due to expire, the warring parties agreed to extend it until Oct. 5 and to hold a summit meeting "as soon as possible."

The agreement, reached in a closed-door meeting overnight, was seen by observers as conferring legitimacy on the separatist leaders of the Armenian majority in Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave in southwestern Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan had in the past refused to deal with the Armenian authorities in Stepanakert. But in recent months the separatists have made significant territorial gains, taking control not only of the enclave but of a huge swath of land to the west and south, running up to the Iranian border.

In April the Azeri army lost the region of Kelbadzhar which separated Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenia, then its regional headquarters in Agdam just outside the enclave to the east. Today most of southwestern Azerbaijan is in Armenian hands.

The Armenian gains drew sharp warnings from Azerbaijan's neighbouring allies, Iran and Tur-

key, that the conflict could spread throughout the region, and prodded Russia to intervene diplomatically to halt the fighting.

Faced with the military debacle, Azerbaijani leader Geidar Aliyev earlier this month proposed talks with the Nagorno-Karabakh authorities, leading ultimately to Tuesday's pre-dawn agreement.

At 3:00 a.m. (2300 GMT) the deputy speaker of Azerbaijan's parliament, Afatdin Dzhalilov, agreed to the idea of a summit with Nagorno-Karabakh leaders, to be held on neutral territory, perhaps Moscow.

He also gave up demands for an unconditional withdrawal of the separatist forces from Azerbaijan territory outside the enclave.

In a joint communique, the two sides said they were "ready to overcome their mutual suspicion and together examine all questions linked to a peaceful settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem."

For his part Arkadi Gukassian, the separatist enclave's "foreign minister," agreed to "talk about withdrawing troops from the occupied territories and reestablishing communications."

The "acting president" of the Nagorno-Karabakh assembly, Karen Baburian, was openly delighted at the development.

"Azerbaijan has de facto recognised Nagorno-Karabakh as one of the sides in the conflict," he told AFP by telephone.

But the deputy leader of the Azerbaijani delegation in Mos-

cow refused to speak of recognition.

This is a first step towards meeting each other to stop the blood flowing. Nagorno-Karabakh's future will be the subject of future negotiations," he said, adding that "Nagorno-Karabakh remains a part of Azerbaijan territory."

More than 10,000 people have been killed and hundreds of thousands displaced during the conflict over the Armenian-dominated enclave within Azerbaijan.

Mr. Baburian also showed a degree of scepticism about the summit agreement saying: "I am sure Azerbaijan needs this so that the next presidential elections on Oct. 3 will go ahead as normal... only afterwards will we be able to say if we can really trust Azerbaijan or not."

Under the agreement, the two sides pledged to pursue direct contacts sponsored by Russia and within the framework of talks brokered by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Armenia, which has managed to keep its distance from the negotiations, also welcomed the "opening of invaluable bilateral contacts," presidential spokesman Aram Abrahamian said.

"These negotiations may create an atmosphere in which the international community — the United Nations and CSCE — will be able to set up guarantees to ensure the peace process is irreversible," he added.

Jackson postpones S. African tour

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — U.S. pop superstar Michael Jackson has postponed the South African leg of his Dangerous tour, the promoters said Tuesday. A statement from promoter Anat Singh said the superstar's manager Jan Money had said Jackson was unable to perform in Johannesburg on the advertised dates of Sept. 30 and Oct. 2. Mr. Singh said a new date for the two concerts was under discussion and he was "optimistic that everything will be resolved and that Michael will come to South Africa for everyone to have the time of their lives." Mr. Singh told a Johannesburg radio station that Jackson "wants to perform in South Africa" and new dates could be set for November. He denied that the cancellation of the South African leg was connected with child abuse investigation against Jackson in the United States.

2 cousins jailed for holdups

MARSEILLE (AFP) — Two cousins who spent the summer of 1990 robbing foreign tourists in southern France when they stopped off at laybys on main highways have been jailed for a separate series of armed holdups. Manuel Navarro and his cousin Raymond, both 30, were given nine years and six years respectively by a court here Monday for robbing a paintshop and a service station on the same day in August 1990. Manuel got a longer sentence for carrying out a second petrol station holdup by himself three days later in Marseille. The pair had already been sentenced, for six and three years respectively by an Aix-en-Provence court, for a series of robberies of drivers in the Nîmes to Toulon region.

10 arrested in Japan schoolgirl vice scandal

TOKYO (R) — Japanese police broke up a vice ring that introduced clients to schoolgirl prostitutes, arresting 10 men, a police spokesman said Tuesday. Four men were taken in on suspicion of running "dating clubs" in Kawasaki and Yokohama, west of Tokyo. They were accused of employing 63 teenage girls, 56 of them schoolgirls as young as 15. Police also arrested six customers for having sex and performing obscene acts with girls they knew to be minors. Police said club managers advertised their services in newspapers and through leaflets handed out on the streets. Around 1,500 men paid the 20,000 yen (\$188) club entrance fee, and 10,000 yen (\$94) for each introduction. After meetings in local cafes, customers paid the girls up to 30,000 yen (\$280) for sex sessions in short-story "love hotels."

Most of the girls said they were attracted to the work as a way of earning a lot of money in a short period of time, the police spokesman said.

Child with water pistol bests deadly cobra

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — A four-year-old boy under attack from a deadly spitting cobra used his water pistol to chase the reptile away, the Star newspaper reported Monday. It said the toddler, Calvin Morse, fired his toy gun when he came face to face with the cobra at Kingstonsdale farm near Nelspruit, in the eastern Transvaal. "The snake, taken aback by the unconventional attack, slithered away and hid," the newspaper reported — but not before it spit a stream of its deadly venom at the child's face. The boy was rushed to a hospital, where doctors said the fact he had been crying throughout the incident had helped flush out what little poison had penetrated his eyes.

Pinter donates manuscripts to British Library

LONDON (AFP) — British playwright Harold Pinter has decided to donate the manuscripts of his works for theatre and screen to the British Library after turning down offers to sell them in the United States, the Observer reported. Among the works the 62-year-old writer is to donate to the library are his play The Caretaker and film works including adaptations of The French Lieutenant's Woman and The Servant. The newspaper said Pinter had turned down offers of a million dollars for 650 boxes of manuscripts and unpublished works, including some poems written in his youth. The collection was "among the finest modern manuscripts we have received in recent years," library Director Brian Lang said. But one play was not among the collection — Moonlight, Pinter's first full-length work for more than a decade which opened here last week.

NEWS IN BRIEF

2 British tourists shot in Florida

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (R) — A British couple in a rental car were brutally shot, one fatally, by teenagers when they pulled off a major highway in Florida before dawn Tuesday to use a toilet, police said. The woman survived the shooting and was hospitalized in a stable condition, but the man was killed. The couple were in their mid-30s and from Yorkshire in England. The shooting was the latest in a series of murders of foreign tourists throughout Florida which have stirred international outrage. An incident occurred about 1:30 a.m. EDT (0630 GMT) at Interstate Highway 10, about 25 miles outside Florida's state capital of Tallahassee, according to John Joyce, a spokesman at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. "There's no indication at this point why these people were picked out by the suspects," said Mr. Joyce. "It's appalling that this would happen again to tourists." Local radio stations reported the couple were shot in a robbery attempt.

Protestant shot dead in N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — A Protestant was gunned down outside his Northern Ireland home Monday night and died in the arms of his pregnant girlfriend, police said. Vernon Bailey, 41, killed in the isolated County Down village of Carrowmore, was released from prison last year where he had been serving a sentence for racketeering. This prompted speculation by detectives that he may have been the victim of a feud within Protestant extremist ranks. No group immediately claimed responsibility. Meanwhile a convicted IRA bomber was sentenced to 15 years in prison Monday and then given 989 years in concurrent terms for 80 other offences in the troubled province of Northern Ireland. Belfast Crown Court passed the judgment on Scott Monaghan, 26, after he admitted committing the crimes over a 12-month period. Mr. Monaghan was given 15 years for the attempted murder of British troops in Northern Ireland. The court also heard that he planted six firebombs and was responsible for a device that destroyed government offices in Belfast.

House rejects U.N. peacekeeping fund

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The house of representatives voted down a \$300 million U.N. peacekeeping fund as well as a proposed \$10 million Command Centre at U.N. Headquarters to train foreign peacekeepers. Congressmen rejected the defence response fund amendment to the fiscal 1994, \$262 billion defence budget bill by narrow margins: 211-199 for the peacekeeping fund and 210-199 for the Command Centre. "The administration is on the verge of moving U.S. foreign policy where the United Nations determines how and where operations are abroad," Republican Representative for Utah James Hansen said Monday before the vote. The fund would have paid the startup costs for up to five

military operations, while the proposal for a Command, Control and Communications Centre at U.N. Headquarters in New York City included \$23.1 million to teach the military's role in a democracy to countries around the world.

Technical talks on Hong Kong resume

PEKING (AFP) — The Sino-British diplomatic body charged with overseeing Hong Kong's return to China in 1997 opened another round of meetings here Tuesday, with technical issues dominating the agenda. "I hope you've come here with more things in your pocket," Guo Fumin, head of the Chinese side of the joint liaison group, quipped to his British counterpart Anthony Galsworthy with reporters present. Mr. Galsworthy noted, however, that the meeting, which runs until Thursday at a state guest house in the Chinese capital, would focus on the nuts and bolts of Hong Kong's historic change of sovereignty. Those include "stabilising" Hong Kong's civil service, the official Xinhua News Agency said, as well as post-1997 travel documents and fine-tuning the definition of a Hong Kong permanent resident.

Famous Chinese dissident freed

PEKING (AFP) — China's most celebrated political prisoner, Wei Jingsheng, was freed Tuesday after spending more than 14 years behind bars, in what many viewed as a gesture to boost Peking's bid to stage the 2000 Olympic Games. Mr. Wei, 43, was arrested in March 1979 for his leading role in Peking's 1978-79 pro-democracy movement and was sentenced in October to 15 years for "counter-revolutionary activities" and "divulging state secrets." Due for release in March 1994, he was freed on parole by an Intermediary Court in Tangshan, the city east of here where he was being held, after consideration of his "good behaviour," a spokeswoman for the Justice Ministry said. Diplomats were quick to link the move to the vote in Monaco on Sept. 23 to decide which of five candidate cities, including Peking, will stage the 2000 games.

Mandela: Extremists threaten elections

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela said Tuesday the white rightwing was more of a threat to South Africa's first democratic elections than Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi. Mr. Mandela told a meeting of editors that there were many rightwingers in key positions, including some inside President F.W. de Klerk's cabinet, and they could disrupt the scheduled April 27 poll. Mr. Mandela said he was not worried about the possible threat to elections from Mr. Buthelezi, who heads the ANC's rival Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and is chief minister of Kwazulu black homeland.

Fair play, decorum mark London chess match

LONDON (R) — Only devotees of the world's brainiest game would play to sit for hours in a basement theatre, peering at almost invisible pieces of wood and being scolded if they break a tomb-like silence.

But for the hundreds of chess fanatics who come to London's Savoy Theatre, little can rival the thrill of seeing world champion Garry Kasparov of Russia duel his British challenger Nigel Short in the flesh.

"Real chess players would watch a good game in an old tin shed or anywhere," said Keith Milner, a patriotic Short supporter who nevertheless admitted he bet on Kasparov to fight off the Marchion 24-gmae challenge to his title.

After three games, Kasparov leads the 24-game series 2-1 to 1/2. He needs only a 12-12 tie to retain the crown and is heavy favourite to dispose of Short in quick order.

Each time the world's top chess masters sit down to face each other, deathly silence fills the cavernous art deco theatre and lasts as long as the game, up to six hours a session.

Kasparov at times springs out of his office-style chair to stroll off behind the grey and white checkered stage to refuel on Swiss chocolate and mineral wa-



Garry Kasparov (left) and Nigel Short (right) duel the World Chess Championship

ter. Short sits much more passively in his heavy, throne-like wood and leather chair.

Spectators are warned not to launch if grandmasters, who provide commentary fed into personal headphones, tell a joke or two. Chuckling disturbed the players on the first day.

On the stage, the two combatants slough, shuffle their feet, clasp their head in their hands or stared into space.

But the vacant look is deceptive and both men make some of their most crushing moves without even glancing at the checkered board.

Despite per-match insults and the intense battle of wits between them, neither 28-year-old Short, nor Kasparov, two years older,

resort to tricks to put each other off, expert observers say.

"There may be some face-pulling but on the whole chess players are courteous and these two are being very well behaved," said U.S. chess champion Patrick Wolff.

Other experts said the atmosphere in London — where Short is staging the first non-Russian challenge to the title since American Bobby Fischer 21 years ago — is a far cry from the old days when chess was wrapped up in cold war politics.

They fondly remember 1978 when Soviet defector Viktor Korchnoi accused his compatriot Anatoly Karpov of using parapsychologists to bombard him with disruptive thought waves.

To retaliate, Korchnoi employed an obscure religious sect to chant in his favour outside the Philippines venue.

"It's all very genteel in England compared with the Russians," said one grandmaster.

The 1.8 million pound (\$2.8 million) match, staged in defiance of the world chess body FIDE from which Short and Kasparov have broken away, is sponsored mainly by Britain's Times newspaper.

Observers said the promoters were trying to replace the Cold War excitement which used to surround the tournaments with cults of personality similar to those in other international sports.

IAAF official attacks doping allegations

LONDON (R) — Top international athletics official Arne Ljungqvist hit out Tuesday at "irresponsible" people who have been swift to accuse China's record-breaking women runners of dope-taking.

"This is an extremely bad example of irresponsible behaviour from people who make such accusations," said Ljungqvist after international cynicism greeted the four world records set in six days by China's Wang Junxia and Qu Yunxia.

"This is possibly the major tragedy of the introduction of doping in sport that it has poisoned the atmosphere in this way," Ljungqvist, chairman of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) medical committee said in a telephone interview.

"Earlier on, such a performance was applauded and rewarded and those who succeeded in this way became stars. Now they become victims of suspicion of a very unpleasant type."

American Lynn Jennings, fifth behind Wang in the 10,000 metres in last month's World Championships, and British team manager Joan Allison are among those who have gone on record as saying they believe the Chinese women use performance-enhancing drugs.

"When athletes are not allowed to perform well without being subjected to suspicion I am extremely upset on behalf of them and on behalf of competitive sport in general," Ljungqvist said from Stockholm.



Al Orthodoxi's Lara Al Masri goes up for a layup as Al Jazireh's Suhair Makusi and Rania Al Dajani try to prevent her attempt (photo by Abdullah Atyouab)

Women's Basketball Championship Jazireh upset Orthodoxi 65-58

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Basketball fans were treated to an exciting match Tuesday when Al Jazireh scored a major 65-58 upset over titleholders Al Orthodoxi in the 4th match of the 1993 women's basketball championship.

In the other match of the day, Al Ahli defeated Abu Nusair 74-15 (41-6).

Al Jazireh, who beat last year's second placed Al Ahli 76-20 last week, seemed determined to end Al Orthodoxi's undisputed 4-year reign over the championship.

Al Orthodoxi had a wide lead of 15-4 at the start of the first half, making it seem that it would be a repeat of matches in earlier seasons when they would easily beat all teams by a margin of over 30 points.

Al Jazireh's energetic playmaker Hala Muheisen and the team's undisputed star Makusi teamed up with newly-recruited Rana Al Hussein to score 12 consecutive points and took the lead 39-34.

Al Jazireh maintained their lead as promising guards Sali and Al Mauge kept Al Orthodoxi trailing 47-41 and 52-43.

With 8 minutes remaining Al Orthodoxi still trailed 55-52 with

Al Jazireh's head coach Fadi Sabbah however had other schemes to abort his counterpart, Murad Barakat's plans.

Al Orthodoxi led 21-7 but they stopped scoring at that point, as Al Jazireh's Suhair Makusi put up a great effort to outscore the titleholders 13-0. Al Jazireh caught-up at 21-20 with five minutes remaining.

Tala Al Mauge, Makusi and Jumana Salti rebounded and scored to give Al Jazireh the lead at 27-22.

Al Orthodoxi scored by Carol Seikaly and Lara Al Masri to win the first half 28-27.

Al Orthodoxi's Jihan Abdul Noor and Ghadah Qandah took their team's lead to 34-27 at the beginning of the second half.

Al Jazireh's energetic playmaker Hala Muheisen and the team's undisputed star Makusi teamed up with newly-recruited Rana Al Hussein to score 12 consecutive points and took the lead 39-34.

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With 8 minutes remaining Al Orthodoxi still trailed 55-52 with

Abdul Noor scoring. Al Jazireh's resolve never faltered. They had finished 4th after Homentmen, Ahli and Orthodoxi in their first season in 1991. They beat Homentmen to take third place in 1992, but now they were actually playing for first place and managing to defeat the titleholders.

Newly-wed Lara Al Masri sank-in a 3-pointer and added two free throws as Al Orthodoxi trailed 60-57.

They failed to convert a series of turnovers as Al Jazireh again scored by Salti and Makusi to end the match 65-58.

An elated Sabbah did not have the opportunity to give a post-match statement with players and fans congratulating him.

He could only comment: "What can I say. It is a dream come true. Homentmen's absence is very much felt. We would have preferred their participation. Otherwise it is a great championship."

The teams next meet Friday Sept. 17 when Al Jazireh play Abu Nusair at 5 p.m. followed by the Orthodoxi - Ahli clash at 6:30 p.m. Both matches will be played at Al Ahli's court.

STANDINGS

	P	W	L	PF	SA	Pts
Jazireh	2	2	—	141	78	4
Orthodoxi	2	1	1	136	80	3
Ahli	2	1	1	94	91	3
Abu Nusair	2	—	2	30	152	2

European soccer tries to shrug off clouds of scandal

PARIS (AFP) — European football gets the chance to forget a summer of prolonged scandal when the continental cups marathon gets into full swing Wednesday.

The banning of European Champions Cup Winners Olympique Marseille from this year's tournament left a dark shadow over the achievements of the 128 clubs who will start in the Champions Cup and Cup-Winners' and UEFA Cup.

The exclusion of Polish sides Legia Warsaw — also for match rigging — and LKS Lodz Raf Riga for missing a preliminary game has further tarnished soccer's reputation.

Monaco have reluctantly taken Marseille's place in the Champions Cup. But they will have difficulties keeping up with favourites AC Milan, Barcelona, Manchester United, Glasgow Rangers and Werder Bremen.

Leading contenders are seeded so they theoretically get an easy first round opponent. But Monaco cannot be sure of passing their first hurdle against AEK Athens. They will be without injured German striker Jurgen Klinsmann and Brazilian Luis Henrique, on World Cup duty, for the first leg in the principality.

Spanish champions Barcelona have a difficult trip to Dynamo Kiev, in Ukraine, made worse by the absence of Romario who scored a hat-trick in his side's opening game of the season. He is also on World Cup duty for Brazil. Barcelona were favourites last year but were beaten in the second round by Dynamo Moscow.

AC Milan, beaten by Marseille in last May's European Cup final, should have no problem with Aarn of Switzerland.

English leaders Manchester United, who go to Kispert, honved of Hungary, have an injury doubt over England winger Lee Sharpe. They have put Diouf Dublin, who moved up from the first division last season, on standby. Bitt United should also be confident.

Glasgow Rangers, one of Europe's strongest teams last season, have hit a form slump as they prepare to entertain Levski Sofia of Bulgaria. But team captain Richard Gough is refusing to worry about the loss of five points from the first six matches of the Scottish season.

"We're still not firing on all cylinders, but there is no way we are panicking," said Gough.

"We are still giving away sloppy goals and we must be a lot sharper Wednesday than we have been so far if we want to emulate last year's performance in Europe."

"There is definitely a feeling of excitement about the start of a new European campaign. The lads all know that if we can get through two rounds the champions league is waiting."

Werder Bremen play Dynamo Minsk Thursday while the other main contenders are Belgium's Anderlecht who will be looking for goals against HJK Helsinki.

Monaco coach Arsene Wenger thinks Paris Germain may have rejected a chance to play in the Champions Cup because they have

such an easy tie in the Cup Winner's Cup against Apoel of Nicosia.

Paris are leading contenders for the Cup with holders Parma, and new Italian Cup Winner's Torino, double English Cup winners Arsenal, Real Madrid and Ajax Amsterdam.

Paris should not suffer too much from absences caused by Brazil's crucial World Cup weekend. Parma and Torino go to Scandinavia but have easy games against Degerfors of Sweden and Lillestrom of Norway respectively.

Arsenal are worried about heavy rain which has made the pitch at Danish side Oh Odense something of a lottery. "At least it will be the same for both sides," said Arsenal manager George Graham who will be without defenders Tony Adams and Lee Dixon.

Real Madrid were booed off the field following their 3-1 weekend defeat to promoted Real Valladolid in the Spanish League. Club President Ramon Mendoza launched a veiled attack on coach Benito Floto that will worry him in the run-up to Wednesday's home game against modest Swiss side Lugano.

Ajax Amsterdam, pacemakers in the Dutch League, go to Hadjuk. Split, one of the stars of the old Yugoslav league but now an unknown quantity because of the strife that has hit the region.

Sixty-four teams start the UEFA Cup making predictions impossible in the first round scramble, but Tuesday's games include German League leaders Eintracht Frankfurt playing Dynamo Moscow, last season's Russian entry in the Champions Cup.

Former Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven also have a difficult match at SC Karlsruhe of Germany.

On Wednesday the star games are Juventus of Italy against Lokomotiv Moscow, Internazionale of Italy against Rapid Bucharest and Bayern Munich's visit to Twente Enschede of Holland.

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ANNOUNCEMENT
THE AMMAN BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL
The Amman Baccalaureate School announces that the fund raising dinner scheduled to be held at the Inter-Continental Hotel on Wednesday September 15th 1993 has been postponed until the evening of Wednesday November 24th 1993. The drawing of the lottery will therefore also be postponed until the same date.

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GOREN BRIDGE
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ
Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A10852 ♣2 ♠KJ8 ♠K95
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
3 ♣ Dbl Pass ?
What do you bid now?
Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q76542 ♣J104 ♠Q3 ♠A3
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Vold ♠A2 ♠10852 ♠AKQJ942
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
Pass Pass ?
What is your opening bid?
Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠9 ♠K87653 ♠A98 ♠AQ7
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 1 ♣
What action do you take?
Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠QJ10 ♣J74 ♠7652 ♠AJ6
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Dbl Pass ?
What do you bid now?
Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ74 ♠AKJ6 ♠K85 ♠7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?

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Gaza, West Bank revelry continues

Combined agency dispatches
GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip — More than 10,000 jubilant Palestinians packed a dusty stadium here Tuesday for a triumphant pro-Arafat rally as tens of thousands more continued street celebrations across the occupied territories in support of the autonomy deal.

"We send you our regards, president," a local leader of the main PLO faction Fatah said over a scratchy sound system to a roar from the flag-waving crowd. "The people are behind you, Abu Ammar," added Diab Al Loh, using the nom de guerre of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"We thank you for making peace for the children, to put the smiles on their faces again," he said from a platform draped with Palestinian flags and Arafat pictures.

"We are here to say yes to peace, yes to freedom and yes to the agreement signed yesterday between the PLO and the Israeli government," he said.

A band played the Palestinian anthem "Biladi, Biladi" before a swarm of mostly young men and boys swamped the stage, sending the musicians packing.

Marshals in camouflage uniforms tried desperately to keep the crowd at bay before the PLO organisers decided to cut short the programme.

People were told over loudspeakers to clear the stadium and go back to doing what they have been doing since Monday — celebrating the signing of the historic agreement between Israel and the PLO giving self-rule to the Gaza Strip and West Bank towns of Jericho.

Outside the decrepit stadium, a gigantic street party which began here Monday afternoon showed no signs of letting up.

Tens of thousands of Gazans, including many who poured in from nearby villages and refugee camps, milled about waving red, green, black and white Palestinian flags and clutching Arafat posters to the "Palestine" T-shirts.

Israeli troops stood discreetly on rooftops, looking down on the celebrations of the imminent end to more than 25 years of Israeli rule over this city of some 245,000 people.

Palestinians raced around the city in flag-draped cars, vans and trucks, honking horns and beating drums.

Rasem Al Bayari, who head the Gaza Trade Union Confederation, promised an even bigger

celebration the day the last Israeli soldier leaves Gaza.

"When they withdraw, you can't imagine what it'll be like," he said.

"Now we have to start building the foundation for our house. It means the European and Arab countries, even America, must give us help to build a base, an economy."

Talab Al Sanaa, an Israeli Arab who sits in the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, expressed even loftier ambitions. "We want to make Gaza the Hong Kong of the Middle East," he said.

More than 30,000 pro-Arafat supporters also rallied in Nablus as Palestinians turned out in Ramallah, Bethlehem and other West Bank towns amid smaller protests were held against the deal.

At Bir Zeit University on the West Bank 1,500 people protested against the accord at a demonstration organised by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

Dozens of flag flags and one giant Palestinian flag were raised by protesters who branded Mr. Arafat a "traitor" and a "collaborator."

Among the speakers was Hussein Abu Kwaik, a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), who was repatriated from exile in Lebanon. "Yesterday (Monday) was a black, sad, mournful day," he said. "Arafat has sold the Palestinian cause."

About 300 supporters of Hamas, which has denounced the agreement, counter-demonstrated in Nablus and some 250 opponents protested in Bethlehem.

An estimated 35,000 people took part in a pro-accord parade from the centre of Nablus, home to more than 120,000 people, to a rally at the local soccer stadium. Nablus is a stronghold of Fatah, but groups opposed to the accord also have a strong following there.

The streets of Nablus were quiet Monday, when Palestinians in their thousands celebrated the peace deal late into the night in the rest of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In Nablus Tuesday, dozens of young men dressed in paramilitary uniform led crowds through the streets. Young boys and girls released balloons.

Youths draped a huge flag on a building used as any army observation post. The flag covered four of the building's nine stories.



Thousands of Palestinians from the northern West Bank area celebrate in Nablus the autonomy agreement signed in Washington between Israel and the PLO (AFP photo)

Hizbollah protests agreement, Beirut killings

By Suhair Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an almost mirror image reaction to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, Jordanians Tuesday expressed mixed feelings about the signing in Washington of a peace agreement between Jordan and Israel.

Dr. Mustafa Hamaneh, director of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, said: "To say either with or against what is happening is a reduction and an over simplification."

"The Jordanians cannot afford to be parochial. They must look forward and try get a better deal for themselves. Enormous challenges lie ahead," Dr. Hamaneh said.

He added: "The Arabs at this moment in history had to choose either to go with the order set up as a result of World War I or Andalusia (emptying of the land)."

"The Palestinian population in Jordan must not be put in a position to choose between being Jordanian or Palestinian because they can be both," he said.

However, I think that (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat should have coordinated more with Jordan.

Hyfa Rabadi, a public libraries supervisor, expressed her joy over peace being finally achieved in the region, saying "peace is good for all, everybody loves peace."

Amal Kur'an, a housewife, expressed "shock" and "anger" at what is happening. "All our life we considered the Jews as the enemies of Arabs and Muslims."

Agenda signing draws mixed street reaction

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Jordan asks Israel for compensation for refugees

By Jane Arraf
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan said Tuesday it was asking Israel to compensate it directly for absorbing a wave of Palestinian refugees who have been in the Kingdom since fleeing the 1948 war with Israel.

"Of course, we have to ask for this," Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali said when asked whether Jordan was seeking direct compensation.

"We suffered. We have to be compensated for it," he declined to put a figure on how much Jordan was seeking.

Dr. Majali's comments were the most direct yet that Jordan was pressing Israel not just for compensation to the 1.1 million registered refugees who were forced from their homes but to the Kingdom itself for absorbing them.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an agreement on Monday for limited Palestinian self-rule which appears likely to result in the repatriation of at least some of the refugees who fled the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and compensation for the earlier victims.

U.N. Resolution 237 calls for refugees from 1967 to be allowed to return to their homes.

Officials said Tuesday the fate of Palestinian refugees was likely to be the main issue in negotiations between Jordan and Israel,

which Monday initiated a negotiating agenda detailing the elements of a peace agreement.

"There are problems that can be sorted out in the short run and others that have to be sorted out in the long run. I think the biggest problem is going to be the issue of displaced persons and refugees," Jawad Al Anani, a senior cabinet member and peace negotiator, told Reuters.

Dr. Anani, minister of state for prime ministry affairs, said Amman was concerned that a flood of money pouring in from foreign donors to the new Palestinian government next door could create an economic imbalance in Jordan.

Palestinians form a majority of Jordan's population.

"Being a sovereign state and Palestinians who live here have been accorded Jordanian citizenship in many cases it does not mean that Jordan should bear the responsibilities alone," he said.

Officials have said Jordan spends about \$300 million a year from its own budget on Palestinian refugees, many of whom are cared for by United Nations agencies.

They do not, however, detail the economic benefits of the Palestinians, who have considerable savings and form the core of the Kingdom's business community.

U.S. denies reports of 'secret' annex to accord

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior U.S. official Tuesday denied reports that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had reached secret agreements beyond the peace accord on partial Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories.

"You should look at what has been signed, believe in what has been signed," said Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs. "It would dismiss such rumours."

Mr. Djerejian was referring to underground leaflets circulated in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria which said that the Israel-PLO accord had a secret annex to it known only to Israel, the PLO, the Americans and the Norwegian mediators.

The leaflets said that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat abandoned sovereignty over Jerusalem and that he will order an immediate end to the nearly six-year-old Palestinian revolt against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The leaflets also said the PLO chairman compromised on the right of compensation for Palestinians displaced by the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

It was not known who was publishing the leaflets, which asserted that the annex was a three-page document.

In a press conference on Tuesday, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali described the secret annex as "nonsense."

Israel and the PLO on Monday signed a landmark peace plan, which foresees the Jewish state's withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in six months.

Mr. Djerejian, speaking to reporters from Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel and Jerusalem via satellite, reiterated Washington's backing of the 22-month-old Middle East peace process.

He described the PLO-Israel peace accord as a "major building block towards a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East."

Mr. Djerejian pointed out that peace in the Middle East was one of the priorities in the U.S. foreign policy, which he said was driven by both interest and values.

"It is very important for us to achieve a viable and enduring peace," he said. "The U.S. is prepared to play its role in helping the parties resolve their differences in whatever way we can do."

He said that the resolution of the 45-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict would provide stability for the region and social justice to its people.

"It is not only a question of bringing material peace to the region in military and security terms but to give the countries of the region the opportunity to address social injustice."

"To be able to bring to the people of the Middle East the benefits of education, employment in an environment of peace. This is what drives us to pursue peace in the region," he added.

The interview with Mr. Djerejian in Washington was arranged by Worldnet, the United States Information Service's television arm.

Participating in the programme, held at the American Centre attached to the U.S. embassy in Amman, were Dr. Assad Abdul Rahman, a political commentator, Mureed Hamad of Jordan Television and Abdullah Hassanat of the Jordan Times.

World hails peace accord, but predicts hard way

Combined agency dispatches

LONDON — After the emotion of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signing ceremony at the White House, all players in the Middle East peace process were urged Tuesday to buckle down to the task of turning soaring hopes into hard reality.

"The call came from a broad range of government and press commentators following the climactic handshake between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat."

"After the handshake comes the hard work," summed up the Times of London.

Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, who attended the White House ceremony, said: "There are still difficulties, there are still challenges and one should not underestimate the possibilities of those who have sworn to sabotage this deal."

One of his country's newspapers, La Libre Belgique, added: "There has been so much suspicion and hatred for half a century that it would be naive to underestimate the risk of a reversal or murderous provocation."

"There's a long way to go and a worrying degree of violence still on both sides," echoed Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans.

Many Palestinians oppose the peace deal because it gives them self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip only for an interim period of five years and does not guarantee that this will lead to an independent state.

But they were not invited to the White House.

The conservative Berlin-based daily Die Welt said the accord signed on Monday was only a first step.

The mass demonstrations in Palestinian refugee camps yesterday, at the same time as the ceremony in Washington, make clear the dimensions of the problem.

Many commentators agreed

Tuesday that Israel and the PLO need all the help they can get — particularly financial — to ensure that Monday's handshake does not turn into an empty gesture.

The New York Times said: "Further progress will require not only the good will so obvious on the White House lawn but the continued encouragement — moral, political and financial — of the West, particularly the United States."

Arab newspapers took varying views on the Israel-PLO peace accord — some for, others against, and one Kuwaiti daily mocking the Palestinian leader as "Rabbi Arafat."

Official Syrian newspaper kept up their campaign against "fragmented, distorted, partial and unilateral solutions" but without mentioning by name the PLO-Israeli accord.

The Kuwaiti Al Anbaa daily ran an editorial headlined "Sharon Rabbi Arafat" which indicted the continued dislike for the PLO leader because of his support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

Gulf newspapers were cautiously behind the agreement, emphasising the need for Palestinian unity and Arab cooperation if the peace process is to move beyond its initial stages.

Iran denounced the pact as treason against the Palestinian revolution.

Libyans rallied to denounce the peace agreement.

Tehran Radio quoted President Hashemi Rafsanjani as saying in Tehran that the pact was "the biggest blow to the popular struggle against the regime occupying Jerusalem" — Israel.

It quoted him as saying it was a "treacherous step" against the Palestinian revolution.

The Libyan news agency JANA said a rally was staged in the eastern city of Benghazi Monday to denounce the signing of the peace agreement. The state-run agency said the pact "is considered to be an agreement of surrender and betrayal of glorious Arab history."

The seven bodies were wrapped in Hizbollah flags, bearing the inscription Alla and a picture of a Kalashnikov assault rifle to symbolise armed resistance to Israel.

The army withdrew from the streets around the martyrs' cemetery in the suburbs, where a military post was ransacked.

Hizbollah said a woman died of her injuries overnight and was taken for burial in her home town in the eastern Beikta Valley, raising an earlier death toll of seven.

Hizbollah fields Lebanon's strongest militia, with about 3,000 fighters. It is most active in Southern Lebanon, where its fighters have sworn to continue guerrilla attacks on Israel's self-styled "security zone" until the Jewish state withdraws its troops from Lebanese soil.

Mourners Tuesday carried the corpses on their shoulders through the streets to the Shaheed Cemetery.

Angry mourners raised clenched fists and vowed, "your blood shall be avenged."

They shouted for the deaths of the President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Battle cries of "Allah Akbar," and chants of "Death to America," "Death to Israel" and "Down with Arafat" also rang out from the flag-waving procession.

Hizbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah and Sheikh Mohammad Fadlallah, the group's spiritual guide, led the funeral parade along with dozens of other senior, turbaned clerics.

Sheikh Nasrallah delivered a fiery eulogy before the victims were lowered into their graves, saying "I accuse Rafik Hariri's government of trying to rekindle Lebanon's civil war."

He demanded that the "executioners of yesterday's massacre be brought to trial."

"Death to Hariri!" "Death to Dalloul!" the members screamed. Defence Minister Moises Dallul has defended the army action.

The clash was the bloodiest involving the Lebanese army since the end of its civil war in 1990. Apart from the deaths, more than 30 demonstrators were wounded.

Deri wants plebiscite on peace; Israelis muted

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Shas party leader Aryeh Deri, who has resigned as interior minister over fraud charges, called Tuesday for a national referendum on the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy agreement.

A referendum must be held on November 3, the same day as the municipal elections. It's the only way to know if the population is ready to take risks for autonomy," Mr. Deri told Israel radio.

"If (the government) wins, the right and the settlers will no longer be able to claim that the agreement was made without majority support."

Shas, which has six seats in parliament, has yet to decide whether to quit Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's coalition leaving it without a majority.

Without Shas support Mr. Rabin can rely on five Arab and communist MPs for a majority of one in the 120-seat Knesset to ratify the Palestinian autonomy accord, something he is loath to do.

Mr. Rabin, who is to meet Shas spiritual leader Rabbi Yossef Ovadia in the coming day, has not ruled out a referendum if he does not have a majority of Jewish deputies.

Israel has never held a referendum.

The leader of the Israeli opposition, Benjamin Netanyahu, branded the peace accord a "historic blunder."

By signing the agreement, the Israeli government had conferred on PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat "the status of a head of state although he has never honoured his promises in the past," Mr. Netanyahu said.

"The leader of the right-wing Likud alliance said the accord was a "historic blunder" which "opens the way to the creation of a Palestinian state."

Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the accord was no cause for celebration.

"The signing ceremony in Washington does nothing at all for peace in Israel. There is no reason to rejoice," said Mr. Shamir. Mr. Netanyahu's predecessor as leader of the Likud.

Referring to the four Israelis killed Sunday by militants of the fundamentalist Hamas group, Mr. Shamir said the deaths showed that Mr. Rabin's government was making a mistake as "the PLO is not the strongest organisation in the Arab World."

"The PLO does not have the ability to impose its will in the (occupied) territories," Mr. Shamir added.

While Palestinians in the occupied territories erupted Monday over the signing of the autonomy agreement in Washington, the landmark event received a surprisingly low-key response among Israelis.

"We want peace but at the same time I'm scared by what's happening," said Esther Kahana, 46, who runs a bakery in downtown Jerusalem.

"I'm feeling both hope and fear and maybe that's what preventing me from getting out and expressing myself," she said.

Life went on as usual even during the ceremony in Washington during which Mr. Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat exchanged a handshake unthinkable just days ago.

The pacifist group Peace Now managed to attract fewer than 200 supporters to a rally in a downtown Jerusalem park while only a dozen or so right-wing activists showed up for a counter-demonstration across the road.

At the Shemesh restaurant on Ben Yehuda street, the dozen customers cast only occasional glances at a television tuned to a live broadcast of the White House ceremony.

During U.S. President Bill Clinton's speech and ahead of the inkling of the documents, several customers got up, paid their bills and left.

"I've mulled over what it is that I'm feeling," said Ami Ben Ari, 45. "And it's total emptiness, no emotion."

COLUMN

Clinton hosts dinner for former presidents

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton Monday night toasted "peace, progress and prosperity" to cap a historic day in which the PLO and Israel signed a landmark peace agreement.

The president and his wife Hillary hosted a small dinner party to celebrate the peace agreement and to honour three former occupants of the White House — former Presidents George Bush, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter — and their contributions to the Middle East peace effort. Mr. Clinton thanked the former presidents and some former secretaries of state for their past efforts on Middle East peace. He also told the former presidents he looked forward to their participation in a ceremony Tuesday morning at which Mr. Clinton will sign two side agreements dealing with labour and environmental issues under the North American Free Trade Agreement. "In this room we represent both political parties, and I think it's fair to say, a fairly wide array of views about public events," Mr. Clinton said.

"But we do have this in common: We agree that the United States must continue to exert its leadership if there is to be hope in this world of taking advantage of the end of the cold war ..."

The dinner was a small affair. Plans were scaled back after the Israelis informed the White House they would depart Monday evening to begin promoting the peace accord at home. The 54 guests included former U.S. Secretaries of States James Baker, George Shultz and Cyrus Vance, members of Congress and members of Mr. Clinton's cabinet. Betty Ford and Rosalynn Carter joined their husbands at the dinner. Barbara Bush was not present.

Free falafel if you say 'peace' in Arabic

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The accord between Israel and the PLO is giving many food for thought. But here at the Holy Land Restaurant, it's also inspiring food for free. Israeli restaurant owner Haya Mizrahi is offering complimentary falafel sandwiches to all Palestinians who stop by her small Oakland cafe Monday through Wednesday. To get the free falafel customers have to say "peace" in Arabic, Mizrahi, who emigrated to the United States about six years ago, said the freebie is her way of celebrating the historic agreement promising self-rule for Palestinians, a step towards peace in the Middle East. "I am so excited ...hoping this will work out," she said. "I am a very small person and this is all I can give."

The 54-year-old Mizrahi said she got to know Palestinians as a police woman at a woman's jail near Tel Aviv for 10 years. She hopes the agreement means "no more mothers will have to lose their sons and no more women will have to lose their husbands."

The free lunch was aimed at Palestinians, but qualifications weren't too rigid. By midday Monday, the gratis grub was being offered to news reporters who had stopped by to check out the local peace offering. No Palestinians had shown up, but Mizrahi was expecting a big day Tuesday as word got out. "I am ready for this. I made a lot."

Mother Teresa hospitalised with fever

CALCUTTA (AP) — Mother Teresa was admitted to a hospital after she developed a fever and her personal physicians want the 83-year-old nun to undergo a thorough medical checkup, a top hospital official said Tuesday. "She is fine, there is nothing to worry," said A.K. Chatterjee, director of the B.N. Birla Heart Research Centre in the western district of Calcutta. "I spent 45 minutes with her this morning, she is normal," he said. "However, in view of her past ailments, we want her to undergo thorough medical checkups."

Dr. Chatterjee said Mother Teresa was admitted at 10 a.m. (0430 GMT) Monday. She had told her aides not to tell reporters because she feels embarrassed by the publicity she gets, a hospital official said on condition of anonymity. The Roman Catholic nun won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize for helping the world's poorest and most destitute people. She has been hospitalised three times this year and was treated for malaria in New Delhi last month. "Since Mother Teresa had developed malaria in New Delhi, we want to make sure that it does not recur," one of the doctors treating her in Calcutta said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Embassy of UAE bombed in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — An explosion damaged the Moscow embassy of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), injuring two of its workers, hours before the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel signed a peace agreement in Washington. Russian newspapers speculated Tuesday that Monday's blast may have been an act protesting the agreement, which the UAE has supported. Russia's security ministry, successor to the KGB, said the explosion was under investigation and the motive was uncertain. There was no claim of responsibility. A ministry spokesman, Sergei Bogdanov, told the Associated Press the bomb contained 400 to 500 grams of TNT and caused "considerable damage" to the embassy in southwest Moscow.

Moroccan hijacker gets 20 years in jail

RABAT (R) — A Moroccan who tried to hijack an airliner to Libya in May last year was jailed for 20 years for a Casablanca criminal court, newspapers reported Tuesday. The opposition dailies L'Opinion and Al Bayane said the man, identified only by the name Mohamamad, had threatened to blow up the plane with a remote-controlled bomb if the pilot did not take him to Libya. The pilot of the Royal Air Maroc airliner, on its way from Geneva to Casablanca, told him he had to land first in Malaga, Spain, to refuel, but in fact landed at night in Casablanca where the suspect was arrested by police. The would-be hijacker was put aboard the plane by Swiss authorities who had expelled him after entering the country illegally.

Turkey says 7 Western tourists freed

ANKARA (R) — Seven Western tourists kidnapped by Kurdish rebels last month were released in eastern Turkey on Tuesday, a Turkish foreign ministry official said. "Two Italians, two Swiss, two Germans and one New Zealander were released near Dogubeyazit on Tuesday and are being debriefed by Turkish authorities," the official said. "Arrangements will be made for their return to their homes as soon as possible," he said, but gave no details.